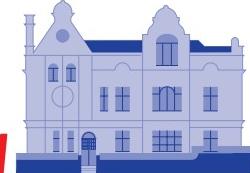


OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018

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TOP WHERE SOLD

CAMERA PLAN TO IDENTIFY YOBS

Report by Jonny Drury

MOBILE CCTV cameras could be used to catch young yobs who are making villagers near Oswestry feel like "hostages" in their own homes, it has been revealed.

Louts are coming from Oswestry to cause trouble in Whittington, targeting vulnerable people in the village by throwing stones at houses and shouting through letter boxes.

An increased police presence has been placed in the village as officers attempt to crack down on the behaviour.

Whittington's Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley said: "It isn't nice. People by the village green in Whittington where youths congregate can feel like hostages at times. We don't want people to feel unsafe at all and I think the police have responded well to this. There is talk of a mobile CCTV system to try and catch the people doing this. I think it is a minority of people coming from town and causing trouble and I am sure it will blow over. But we will help and support anyone who is targeted by behaviour like this."

Steve Charmley Local police inspector

Tracey Ryan said with the Easter holidays now starting, officers didn't want to stop children having fun – but urged them to behave themselves

She said: "We appreciate they are having time off and don't want to ruin their half term. But we want them to have fun sensibly and enjoy themselves sensibly. We just want to encourage them away from this behaviour, be responsible and care for others in the community."

Meanwhile, councillors in Welshpool were due to meet last night (Wednesday) to discuss whether they should ban police officers accessing CCTV cameras after a row erupted over a £2 million funding scheme.

Welshpool Town Council has heavily invested in its CCTV in recent years, which is housed in the town hall.

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn has announced a £2 million pot of funding to switch on disused CCTV cameras across Powys – but has told Welshpool it is bottom of the pile.

Now the council has hit back and was due to discuss the possibility of changing the locks on its CCTV room and even charging police a fee for looking at and getting copies of tapes.

• Lock-out – See Page 8

Walker Olive's exceptional efforts recognised



Olive Morris, centre, receives her certificate from Derwen College principal Meryl Green and chief executive Ruth Thomas. Photo: John Sambrooks.

A WALK in the early spring sunshine at the weekend proved to be a special occasion for fundraising pensioner Olive Morris.

The determined 74-year-old from Oswestry took part in the annual Derwen College 10k walk in and around the village of Gobowen on Sunday.

It was the 50th sponsored walk she had completed to raise funds for the specialist college and bosses made sure the landmark

occasion did not go unrecognised. Cheered on by other walkers, Olive was presented with a certificate by college principal Meryl Green and chief executive Ruth Thomas.

Olive joined hundreds of walkers on Sunday for the annual sponsored walk.

She had already clocked up more than 400 miles to support the charity over five decades.

The pensioner has raised thousands of pounds during that time towards facilities for

students with disabilities and learning difficulties.

And this year was no different. She raised more than £400 for the college which is based at Gobowen. Although she missed the very first college sponsored walk in 1967 she took part in the 1968 walk at the age of 24.

"I am very proud to say I support Derwen College," said Olive.

• Hundreds – See Page 28

HOUSING

Council could seek legal action over flats bid decision

A TOWN council could seek a judicial review after planning permission was given to build flats on the site of a former social club.

Powys County Council's planning committee recently passed an application by Mid Wales Properties Ltd to demolish Welshpool Social Club and build 17 flats despite opposition from residents and councillors.

Welshpool Town Council was due last night (Wednesday) to discuss the possibility of asking for a judicial review to have another go at stopping the controversial development.

A document looking into the planning process has been drafted by Town Clerk Robert Robinson and was due to be discussed by councillors last night.

The document states the council could seek a review if the correct procedure was not followed or incorrect information was given which would influence the decision.

It states that the council's solicitor believes there is grounds for a review.

The clerk said: "Advice has been sought from the council's solicitor who agrees that prima facie there is a case for judicial review.

"The next stage is to gain council's opinion before making a decision to proceed."

ECONOMY

Chamber's invite to town businesses

FIRMS in Oswestry are being encouraged to get involved in the town's chamber of commerce.

The chamber will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday next week and elections will be held to fill roles on the group's executive committee. Chamber chairman Mark Derham said: "We have a number of vacancies for new members to join the executive committee, so if you'd like to get involved, come along."

• Commerce – See Page 4

INSIDE

Line up to see a funny bunny



PAGE 14

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Services at baby unit hit again by temporary closure

Report by Dayna Farrington

BIRTHING services were suspended again at Oswestry's Midwife Led Unit (MLU) at the weekend – with health bosses quick to deny there was any "hidden agenda" behind the closure.

The overnight closure on Saturday night follows a series of temporary closures of inpatient services at the maternity unit.

Health bosses have also announced inpatient services at Bridgnorth's MLU are being closed until April 22.

Campaigners claim bosses have a programme of closures planned for all of Shropshire's MLUs in the coming months but that claim has been denied.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) says an increasing number of mothers are choosing, or being assessed as needing, to have their babies in consultant-led units over rural MLUs.

To protect their safety during the birth, SaTH says it is having to look to temporary closures to allow staff to follow mothers' decisions.

Sarah Jamieson, head of midwifery at SaTH, said: "The issues which have been affecting our maternity service continue, with the majority of our mums choosing to deliver their babies at our consultant-led at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, or being assessed as needing a consultant-led birth because of medical need, in the best interests of mum and baby."

"I must reiterate that decisions over staffing are made purely on the basis of the choice our women are making and about maintaining their safety. With 98 per cent of women giving birth away from our rural MLUs, it is important that our midwives are where our mums are."

"I know there have been some comments about future planned suspensions, but I must reiterate again that no decisions have been taken, there is no hidden agenda here."

"The safety of women and babies using our maternity services has been, and always will be, our number one priority."

• Confidence – See Page 28

Website honours servicemen's sacrifices



Volunteer Hugh Mathias, lead researcher John Davies and student Sam Bellis show photographs of some of the soldiers

A WEBSITE commemorating the lives of men from Oswestry who lost their lives in the First World War has been launched.

The Men on the Gates website is the culmination of a two-year project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, that sheds light on the lives of more than 300 men listed on Oswestry Memorial at Cae Glas Park.

The project has been run by Qube Gallery and been brought together through information from family members and hundreds of hours of research by volunteers, includ-

ing head researcher John Davies who has led a weekly group of volunteers at Qube. He said: "We've been able to build a profile for each of these men and each has his story that deserves to be told."

"They came from all walks of life and there are many connections between them as brothers, neighbours, work colleagues or members of local clubs and societies."

"We've been able to discover where the men lived and went to school, where they worked and which battles and campaigns

they fought in on the land, at sea or in the air." The Men on the Gates website enables a name-by-name search of soldiers. Students have also been working on the project, including 18-year-old Sam Bellis, who studies at North Shropshire College. He said: "It's been fascinating and very humbling to learn about these local men and what their lives were like before they went away to war." A host of people and organisations came together to collate information for the website.

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Sergeant convicted of sex assault allegations

AN army cadet sergeant has been convicted of inappropriately kissing and touching a teenage cadet at a training camp almost two years ago.

William Christopher Farrell was found guilty of two charges of sexual assault following a four-day trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court last week.

The 61-year-old, of Church Green, Cockshutt, near Ellesmere, was cleared of two other allegations of sexual assault. Judge Peter Barrie adjourned sentence for reports until April 16 and Farrell was allowed bail.

Farrell had denied all four charges, which were said to have happened at the Nesscliffe Training Camp near Oswestry in May, 2016.

He was said to have kissed the girl cadet on the cheek shortly after arriving at the camp for a weekend residential training course.

The following day he touched her lower back and bottom during a training exercise.

Farrell was cleared of another allegation of kissing the cadet on the direction of the judge during the trial.

He was also found not guilty by the jury of an incident of allegedly touching the cadet when she was in a car.

Farrell was said to greet cadets by hugging the boys and kissing the girls but had denied that it was ever sexual.

He also denied touching the girl during the training exercise or in the car.

Eyes down for some bingo fun

A PRIZE bingo evening will be held in Welshpool next week.

The event will be held at the Corn Exchange in the town.

It will take place on Tuesday next week.

It is eyes down at 7pm with doors open at 6.30pm.

Admission is £1 to include refreshments at half time.

Report by Jonny Drury

A SOLDIER has claimed a senior colleague who is accused of being a member of a banned neo-Nazi group handed him propaganda leaflets on an army base.

Private Mark Barrett, who had a swastika on his windowsill, claimed Lance Corporal Mikko Vehvilainen, who had a home in Llansilin, near Oswestry, gave him two National Action flyers, one bearing the slogan, White Jihad, and cracked racist "jokes".

Barrett also alleged the more senior soldier asked him to draw pictures of a Nazi swastika and a Second World War German Panzer tank found in a sketchbook in his barracks accommodation.

The 25-year-old told police interviewing him after his arrest on suspicion of a terrorism offence at Alexander Barracks, Cyprus, that he found Vehvilainen "intimidating".

Vehvilainen, a fellow Royal Anglian Regiment soldier, based at Sennybridge Camp, Powys, is also on trial at Birmingham Crown Court alongside a 23-year-old male, who cannot be named, accused of National Action membership.

Barrett knew Vehvilainen because the 33-year-old lived in married accommodation on the base.

Asked what he knew about the banned group, he told police: "That guy, Vehvilainen, he approached me about it. He is a corporal in my battalion. I had a coffee with him, and he started saying racial comments and had a joke about it, but didn't mean it; or anything sinister or anything like that."

Barrett claimed he never again looked at the leaflets until they were pulled from his wallet after arrest by police.

Vehvilainen is alleged to have had weapons and Nazi flags at a house he was renovating in Llansilin and is also charged with possession of a terrorist document, the Anders Breivik manifesto, and two counts of stirring up racial hatred relating to two forum posts.

He denies the charges and the trial continues.

Back in Oswestry last weekend

Homecoming shows for circus



Circus Funtasia owner Tracy Jones and daughter Nia were in Oswestry at the weekend

A CIRCUS owner returned to her home town – and it was a family affair under the big top.

Tracy Jones, from Oswestry, founded Circus Funtasia with her now acrobat husband, Julie Nikolov, five years ago. And 14-year-old daughter Nia is also following in their footsteps.

They founded Circus Funtasia after both managing shows for 12

years. "We thought that it was time to create our own show to take on the road," Tracy said.

She added: "It was the scariest thing that we have ever done but now we are the happiest that we have ever been."

Tracy was born in Welshpool and educated in Oswestry before joining the circus at 16.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group tries walk for third time

THE Welshpool Ramblers walk on Sunday will be another attempt at the walk from Meifod led by Pam Burn which has already been scheduled twice this year only to be cancelled because of bad weather.

People are asked to meet at 9am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (OS grid ref. SJ 226 075), from where transport may be available, or at the start of the walk in the car park next to Meifod village hall and toilets (OS grid ref. SJ 153 133) ready for a 9.30am start.

For further information about the walk people can contact (01938) 500515.

Man treated for smoke inhalation

AN elderly man was treated for smoke inhalation following a fire on Sunday.

Firefighters in Welshpool were called to a property fire in the Wildwood Court area of the town at around 12.30pm. Welshpool Fire Station tweeted that the house was heavily smoked, after clothes had been left near to a cooker. An ambulance was called to the scene where a man was treated for the effects of smoke inhalation.

Quiz night will take place in town

A QUIZ night will be held at the Church House in Welshpool tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm.

Sandwiches will be served at half time but patrons are asked to bring along their own drinks and glasses.

Teams are of two to six players are welcome with admission £2 per person. Rounds will include general knowledge, pop music of 60s 70s 80s, the 1940s and a special Welshpool round.

Hunt down top plants

WHITTINGTON Castle will host a Plant Hunters' Fair tomorrow (Friday).

The fair will run from 10am to 4pm with stalls from a mix of nurseries.



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The 1914-18 War Medal

Historian seeks to return war medal

AN amateur historian is trying to trace relatives of a Shropshire soldier who was killed in action 100 years ago so that he can return to them his war medal.

The 1914-18 War Medal, which must have been issued to the bereaved relatives of Private Robert

John Jones of Oswestry, has been in the family of Gary Lloyd for many years. His father Peter, who lives at Buckley, near Mold, cannot remember how he came by the medal in the first place, but says that when they were youngsters they would swap family medals in school.

The faded inscription around the circumference of the medal revealed it was that of Private R.J. Jones.

It also gives his service number and identifies him as from the East Lancs. Regiment.

Gary says he phoned the regimental museum and a lady there was able to give him some information.

This revealed that his home address was 10 Leighton Place, Lower Brook Street, Oswestry, and he was 19 when he died on March 23, 1918, in the German spring offensive.

Gary can be contacted on (01352) 758308.

Firms urged to get involved with chamber of commerce

Report by Jonny Drury

BOSSES in Oswestry are being encouraged to get involved in a key business group in the town.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday next week at 6pm at the Wynnstay Hotel in Church Street.

The meeting is open to all paid-up members who are then able to vote on the membership of the executive committee for the up-coming year. Current chairman Mark Derham said the chamber gives businesses a voice in key developments which will affect the town

Full steam ahead for Easter fun

THE Cambrian Heritage Railway will be starting its season this weekend with an Easter egg hunt and visit from the Easter bunny.

Steam trains will be running on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from 11am until 3pm at Oswestry Station. Tickets cost £5 adults and £3 children and every child accompanied by an adult can take part in finding clues leading to a free chocolate Easter egg.

Trains will then be running every weekend throughout the summer at Oswestry and Llynclwyd stations. Special events planned include vintage vehicle day, beer festival, children's fun day, and an industrial diesel gala. The next special event will be the reopening of the historic signal box at Oswestry station, dating from 1892, and open day on May 12.

in the future. He said with Oswestry firms voting for the town to become a Business Improvement District (BID) and with the Government announcing multi-million pound infrastructure funding for the town, it was important there was a strong chamber of commerce.

He said: "Oswestry is facing a fantastic future, with the recently voted for BID, and the massive investment in infrastructure from central government. Oswestry needs a strong chamber to work with and scrutinise these projects when necessary. We have a number of vacancies for new members to join the executive committee, so if you'd like to get involved, come along."

Membership is open to any business that trades within Oswestry, whatever their size or sector. Mr Derham added: "There is a perception that the chamber is only interested in retail businesses within the town centre. This is certainly not the case; we'd like to see representatives from the town's largest employers, as well as the businesses based on the industrial estates".

Businesses wishing to get involved with the chamber are urged to visit oswestry-chamber.org.uk.

Firm had a big job on its hands



Senior designer Anna Bispham from Newgate Clocks with one of the firm's products

STAFF at an Oswestry firm had a job on their hands at the weekend as the clocks went forward.

Newgate Clocks has dozens of its designs of timepieces on display at its Oswestry headquarters which all needed resetting.

This year will be even busier than usual at Newgate. It recently branched out to launch its own watch collection which made its debut appearance at Baselworld in Switzerland, the world's largest watch and

jewellery trade show. Newgate Watches exhibited at the show alongside luxury brands Rolex, Omega, Gucci and Dior and the most opulent of watches from the likes of Hublot and Greubel Forsey retailing in excess of £1.5 million.

Newgate, founded by husband and wife team Jim and Chloe Read, decided to design their own, more modest but fashionable watch collection after the couple struggled to find watches to wear themselves.

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Hospital top of the league for hip and knee operations

Report by Jonny Drury

PATIENTS undergoing hip and knee replacements at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital are officially in the best place.

The hospital is exceeding the results of other specialist providers according to NHS figures.

Data published by NHS digital has shown patients treated at the hospital are achieving better health gains than the four other specialists in this field as well as other local providers.

The report is a major coup for the hospital and comes as North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson said he was planning to nominate it for an award for his treatment following a recent horse fall.

Steve White, medical director at the hospital said: "We benchmark our performance against the other specialist orthopaedic providers in the country to give us an indication of how well we are performing. These results are pleasing and show the high quality of care we deliver at RJAH. "Patients should take a lot of comfort from these scores that they are getting access to some of the best orthopaedic surgeons in the country."

"When offering an operation it is important to balance the probability of benefit and the risk of harms.

"We only offer total hip or knee replacement if the patient's history, examination and investigations show that the operation is appropriate. The data shows this approach is effective in enhancing a patient's quality of life. We should be proud of that."

The data has been calculated through a questionnaire that measures the effectiveness of care and health gain as assessed by the patient themselves.

Both knee and hip replacement patients at the hospital were at the top among its peers, with the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham scoring second for both.

Mr Paterson was taken to the hospital with serious back injuries after a horse fall, forcing him to take an extended break from Westminster.

Now recovering at home, the MP announced on Twitter: "I'm delighted to nominate Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries for a Care & Compassion Award. Carrying for immobile patients' every need, they are extremely professional and dedicated to Shrewsbury under the plans, although Telford would retain a midwife-led unit."

The preferred option, which has been agreed by the county's two clinical commissioning groups, is for a single emergency unit at RSH, while planned services will be centred at PRH. The consultant-led women and children's unit would move to Shrewsbury under the plans, although Telford would retain a midwife-led unit.

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OBE honour for learning leader



Arwyn Watkins and his wife Vicky outside Buckingham Palace after the ceremony

A LEADING figure in work-based learning apprenticeships. Mr Watkins, of Llanfair Caereinion, was at the ceremony with wife Vicky and sons Cai and Zac.

From Buckingham Palace, they went to the House of Lords for lunch with his mentor Lord Ted Rowlands, former president of the National Training Federation for Wales.

Mr Watkins joined Cambrian Training Company nearly 20 years ago and is a former chairman and chief executive of the National Training Federation for Wales where he worked in partnership with Welsh Government and the network to shape the successful work-based learning programmes provided in Wales today.



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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Great news this week that common sense has prevailed over a move to award Grade II listing to Ysgol Maesdyre in Welshpool – allowing the £14 million scheme for two new schools in the town to go ahead.

An 11th hour bid asking CADW to list the crumbling building was successful, threatening the development of a new Welsh language school on the site, but a compromise to incorporate part of the original building in the new scheme is a sensible resolution.

There's been a lot going on behind the scenes involving Powys County Council, Welsh Government and CADW to ensure this compromise and now Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng will be built as planned, with the Government agreeing to pick up any extra costs incurred by the listing.

This ensures that the education of our children is not affected and that the people of the Welshpool area will benefit from everything that a modern school of this type offers.

The development of both the English and Welsh language schools can now go ahead as planned.

Just a shame that those behind the application for listing didn't come forward earlier with their request. Because while we have a duty to respect the past it is surely the future of the education of generations to come that should be our priority.

This week I'm calling on Powys County Council Planning Committee members to start demonstrating consistency in their deliberations after turning down plans for 40 new homes at Four Crosses between Welshpool and Oswestry.

This was the same planning committee which just a week earlier cocked deaf ears to the views of an entire town council and its own local county council member and granted planning permission for a block of 17 flats in the heart of a residential area in Welshpool. Isn't over-development in one area the same as over-development in another? And why listen to the views of Llandysilio Community Council, who objected to the Four Crosses schemes and totally ignore a unanimous decision by the entire Welshpool Town Council, who also used their combined local option to object?

Little wonder that Welshpool Town Council was this week considering a move to take the decision to a judicial review, questioning whether Powys planners carried out the right procedures.



Henry with TMS producer Peter Baxter



Henry Blofeld proudly shows his OBE



Blowers does his stuff on the microphone

PETER RHODES

'ROMANTIC fatalism' is the term coined by researchers at Queen Mary University, London, for people who believe that fate will deliver their Mr or Ms Right. Unsurprisingly, the academics found that a lot of romantic fatalists end up single. Meanwhile, in the university of real life, many women discover that a lot of Mr Rights turn out to be Mr Wrongs. There is much to be said for finding a Mr Okayish and, over the next years, making what improvements you can.

JUST under two years ago I wrote: "My personal foreign policy can be summed up in four words. Make friends with Russia." Today, it seems an impossible dream. But we shouldn't give up on it. Being friends with Russia is not the same as being friends with Putin. The Russian people I met on a couple of trips to Leningrad (as it was then) and Moscow were good people. They may have been bombarded with propaganda but they were nobody's fools. They were long-suffering, distrustful of politicians and fed up with the system, whether it was creating communism or its successor, mafia capitalism.

They queued for hours to get a table at the first McDonald's in Moscow not because the food was great but because the staff smiled at you and it was the nearest these Muscovites could get to a day trip to the West. The people of this proud old imperial power have more in common with Brits than we think. Our leaders may snarl at each other but we, the people, should be friends.

THE whole point of leaving the EU is for Britain to become an independent global power, beseizing the oceans, befriending the world and striking the best trade deals possible at the keenest prices. So why all the little-Englanders bellyaching about our new blue UK passports being made in France? That's how it's going to be, folks. Look out for chlorine-washed Wyoming chicken and Cornish pasties made in Rio.

WE are getting a regular on-screen demonstration of where protesting against unfairness can lead you. When the BBC's China editor Carrie Gracie raged against sexism in the pay rates and resigned from her job a few weeks ago, didn't we all assume she was facing some great self-sacrificing demotion within BBC News? Not exactly. Gracie now pops up in a plum job as a fully-fledged £145,000-a-year newsreader looking exactly like that old metaphor, the cat that got the cream.

Bowled over by tales from cricket's 'dear old thing'

One of Britain's best loved cricket commentators was in Shropshire last week. By ANDY RICHARDSON.

"IT was an extraordinary send-off. Surreal. Do you know, in a funny way, I was almost embarrassed."

Henry Blofeld: cricket commentator, bon viveur and natural-born performer shakes his head in happy disbelief at the farewell ovation he got from an adoring Lord's last summer on the occasion of his last Test Match Special.

He looks around the sitting room of his London home – a room that, like Blofeld, is warm, fun, eccentric, and stuffed to bursting with memories, images, stories and larks from a life well lived – and, just for a second, appears to be lost for words at the outpouring of affection.

Not for more than a second, though.

He's soon off on a whistle-stop series of uproarious anecdotes, impressions and reminiscences about his life in radio as a TMS regular since 1972 and his plans now that he has hung up the BBC commentary microphone.

He explains that his forthcoming nationwide tour, 78 Retired, is something of a misnomer.

The show played Shrewsbury's Walker Theatre, at Theatre Severn, on Friday last week – and it was sold out.

Speaking ahead of the show he said he was very much looking forward to spilling the beans on cricket, life, the universe and everything, saying: "I've been having all sorts of adventures that I am eager to tell everyone about, and I'm just not the sort of person who can tolerate inactivity so I cannot wait to get on the road".



Henry Blofeld, front left, with the rest of the Test Match Special team

From brilliance as a young cricketer that was curtailed by being run over by a bus – his frequent references to the vehicles on commentary suggest he holds no grudge – to Ian Fleming adopting the Blofeld family name for James Bond's arch-nemesis, Blofeld has always lived the life less ordinary, and has made even the grimiest England batting collapses bearable.

It seems unthinkable to have TMS without Blofeld but, as he points out: "TMS, like everything, is evolving."

"The commentators today are excellent, so professional, but I suppose when I began there was a little more

room for the strong individual characters, the willing enthusiastic amateurs."

"In the old days, the BBC wasn't oppressed by the fog of political correctness."

One such unique character was Blofeld's great pal Brian Johnston.

He said: "I remember him in Madras, England were touring."

"Johnners was the most fastidious of eaters, boring, boring, boring."

"Awful food he had."

"But of course, being the man he was, he kept getting asked out for dinner by everyone."

"I ran into him on the first morning of the Test match and I have never seen anyone look ill-er in my life."

"I said to him, 'Johnners is it really as bad as it looks?'"

"Oh Blowers, it is worse," he said.

"Last night I invented a new curry."

"It is called the Boycott Curry."

"You got the runs just the same but they come a great deal more slowly."

The ultra-professional, scrutinised BBC of today might not have been so forgiving of another legend of the TMS box.

John Arlott's name comes up and Blofeld recalls the 1975 Lord's Test when Arlott "was taken for lunch by his publisher, which meant that what was normally a two-bottle affair became a four, probably five, maybe even six-bottle affair, especially because the publisher was paying."

Returning

On returning to the ground, "feeling distinctly mellow", Arlott was straight into the radio hot seat.

Blofeld recalls: "After five minutes he had the greatest bit of good fortune a commentator has ever had: the first streaker at Lord's. A young, rotund merchant seaman clad only in short socks and trainers and called, as it turned out, Michael Angelow – truthfully – came galloping out from the Tavern."

"A blond policeman eventually caught up with him and got his helmet over the offending weapon." When Blofeld started on TMS, he says, he was instructed to remember that it was a unique programme, and that while the job was in part about cricket commentary it was even more about "providing company" for the listener.

There is no better company than Henry Blofeld, and the radio's loss is the theatre's gain. So if you enjoyed these unforgettable tales from Henry's time on TMS, there are plenty more to be told on tour.

...and the show went on.

Henry Blofeld's Test Match Special team included (from left to right):

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A: Yes, it is. 'Email a prisoner' enables you to send messages to prisoners in the UK, to all Prison establishments that offer that service. It is free to sign up and only takes a few seconds to register. Once you are a member you will be able to send an email to your daughter, or any prisoner within the UK, as long as you know their prisoner number and which prison they are located at.

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Further information relating to this question is available from Emma Simoes, a partner with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



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Letters

We should put the brakes on drivers

NOTE that the proposed 20mph limit in residential areas of Shropshire has been voted down – defeated by five to three. Which prompts the question, why was such an important and life-saving proposal restricted to the views and decisions of just eight people in the county?

It would be interesting to find out just how many of the five who voted the proposal down are drivers – my own educated guess is five and indicates exactly why pe-

destrians throughout the land are treated like second class citizens. The motorist gets from A to B more speedily every year – many pedestrians go from A but never arrive at B! The fact remains that statistics prove conclusively that a pedestrian hit by a vehicle travelling at 20mph is far less likely to be seriously injured (or worse) than being hit by the same vehicle travelling at 30mph. That fact alone demands the proposal be given at least a six-month trial.

A further fact which would promote a trial would be our national newspapers, TV and radio publishing the facts regarding motor vehicle accidents and the number of deaths and serious injuries caused.

The first pedestrian killed in the UK was Bridget Driscoll, aged 44, run over by the first ever Daimler on August 17, 1896 – it has not stopped since!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Old postcard prompted story of grandparents



This old postcard was simply described as "The farmstead nr Welshpool" but thankfully we can pinpoint exactly where, because after we originally published this photo over 10 years ago Mrs Nesta Jones of Chirbury came on the phone to tell us: "My grandparents used to live there. It's called the Brook House Farm, and is on the Welshpool to Gualfied road, about three miles out of Welshpool." Her grandparents were William and Sarah Gittins. We imagine the picture dates from around the 1930s.

Health workers deserve a big pay increase Mr Hunt

AN open letter to Jeremy Hunt.

My dear wife Margaret lost her battle with cancer on January 27 after a long illness.

She was readmitted to hospital on January 4, things got gradually worse in spite of the dedicated care and attention she received.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the wonderful care and attention she received from all the doctors, nurses and staff at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital also the doctors and staff at the Riverside Medical Practice in Shrewsbury, the district nurses and the care at home team from the Severn Hospice. You were all wonderful.

The one wish Margaret wanted that she was unable to carry out was to write to you to say that you should spend at least one day working as an orderly in a busy hospital to really understand their workload and dedication and, ignoring party pressures, revise your opinion on what their pay rise should be. That is, it should be a large one.

JIM ELLERBY
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Polish lessons may be better option

A LADY shopkeeper recently suggested in your paper that the Welsh language should be taught in our local schools to accommodate all the Welsh speaking residents in the Oswestry area.

May I take the idea further and suggest that Polish should be taught which would benefit all our hard working Polish neighbours and enhance integration in the community. I would conjecture that there are more Polish speaking residents in Oswestry than Welsh.

DG NORRIS
Oswestry

There's ups for them and downs for the rest of us

ON an edition of the BBC programme This Week, Michael Portillo the former Tory MP, who has reinvented himself as television personality, claimed that 'capitalism has been very successful' but 'has had some ups and downs'.

Most of the 'ups' have been in the coffers of the very rich and pretty much all the 'downs' have been at the expense of the poorest.

We see it right here, right now with continuing massive cuts all across our public services from the NHS to the armed forces via education.

Portillo was the instigator of the sale of MoD owned homes for soldiers so that they, the MoD, could pay rent for them!

The National Audit Office said in a recent report that the resulting cost to the public has been £4.2 billion, truly up for the capitalists who now own what was our property and down for us poor souls including those deluded enough to vote Tory.

JOHN HIGSON
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Time for pause and rethink on Brexit before it's too late?

BREXIT is not going too well, is it?

Nearly 20 months after the referendum and still we wait for a coherent, costed and comprehensive plan from a seemingly deeply-divided Government. Meanwhile, a large, growing and diverse range of independent evidence from sources that most people would regard as reputable, suggests that any version of Brexit is likely to be, for the majority, economically, culturally and politically damaging for decades to come.

If there were a similar weight of studies showing the opposite, surely they would have been published by those still keen to pursue leaving the EU? Claims that Brexit will allow us to reclaim sovereignty for Parliament and take back control (which many say we never lost) are also beginning to ring hollow. Are our representative democratic institutions really being given back power when court cases are needed to allow them a debate; dissenting voices are labelled traitors and leaks and humble addresses are often the only way that MPs can obtain the information they need to make informed decisions? Some, of course, blame it all on the EU for "being difficult", but are they not just representing the interests of the 27 remaining members, which is their job? Perhaps, instead, we might be beginning to see that they really don't need us more than we need them.

Of course, we need to take the result of the referendum in June 2016 seriously, both for what it said about the EU and British political life. But does a slender majority of those allowed to vote, on a binary referendum from nearly two years ago, still represent the will of the people, I wonder, particularly as more information on its consequences emerges? Time, perhaps, for a pause and a rethink, before it's too late?

KEVIN LAWRENCE
Albrighton

Churchill would be like Goliath

SO, MP Anna Soubry said that all Brexiters have mental problems.

Brexiters on the whole were the very people that voted in the general election, so it seems that because of this mental problem, voters could be the reason that we have the worst show of MPs in Parliament that we have had for a very long time, including herself.

Just recently there has been a lot in the papers about the film that has come out depicting Sir Winston Churchill if Churchill were around today he would be like a Goliath amongst pygmies, and our current MPs would look rather Lilliputian in size by comparison.

MR K BEDDIS
Yockleton

Elegant Eastbourne

Eastbourne is one of Britain's more elegant resorts with its wide spacious promenade, many gardens and squares and the rolling grasslands ascending to the high perpendicular cliffs of Beachy Head. A Pier and a fine shopping centre are other features of the resort. Eastbourne also offers a variety of entertainment. The distinctive three-tier promenade is bordered by dazzling floral displays and the turquoise and gold domed bandstand looks striking against the seascape.

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Spring fashions to be on display

THERE will be a welcome start for the spring at St Silin's Church in Llanlliniol on Friday next week with a seasonal fashion show.

The audience will be able to review this year's spring fashion trends from Oswestry's M&Co.

There will be the latest fashions for all ages – from toddlers to teenagers and men and women. Representatives of the local community will be acting as models parading up and down the red carpet. Tickets are £8 and available from the Oswestry shop and from Rowanthorn. The event is in support of the Welsh Air Ambulance and Llanlliniol Church.

Refreshments will be served while the audience will have the opportunity to make some purchases. The event gets underway at 7.30pm.

Big bad wolf talk for fellowship

THE Oswestry Group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship held its March meeting at the Wynnstay Hotel on March 6.

The speaker on that occasion was the wildlife photographer and author Michael Leach, whose subject on this visit was Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf. Copies of the menu for the spring lunch, to be held on May 8 at the Narrowboat Inn, were given out. There will be a list available at the next meeting for members and their guests to book places and give their menu choices.

The next meeting of the fellowship will be held on Tuesday next week at the Wynnstay Hotel at which Andrew Faulks will be talking about Stan's Superstore.

Further details can be obtained from chairman Jan Stokes on (01691) 654380.

Report by Jonny Drury

A COUNCIL may ban police officers accessing its CCTV cameras after a row erupted over a £2 million funding scheme.

Welshpool Town Council has heavily invested in its CCTV in recent years, which is housed in the town hall.

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn has announced a £2 million pot of funding to switch on disused CCTV cameras across Powys – but has told Welshpool it is bottom of the pile.

Now the council has hit back and will discuss the possibility of changing the locks on its CCTV room and even charging police a fee for looking at and getting copies of tapes.

Mayor Steve Kaye says the plans have been proposed because the council is "being punished" for making the effort to keep its own CCTV system up to scratch.

He said: "We met with the commissioner 18 months ago and he promised the world. We spent £17,000 in the last 10 years keeping our system up to date, and then we are left at the bottom of the pile under the new scheme."

"I think it is disgraceful, so we are discussing this move to change the locks and stop the police using our system."

The council was due to last night (Wednesday) discuss a proposal to write to the commissioner giving one month's notice that police will no longer be able to use the CCTV system without paying for it. The proposal is for police to be charged £25 to view footage, with a council staff member present and £75 for a copy. Under the plans, local officers will also have to return keys to the town hall.

Further details can be obtained from chairman Jan Stokes on (01691) 654380.

Council threatens police CCTV lock-out over row

Prezzo to retain its restaurants in county

SHROPSHIRE'S three Prezzo restaurants have been saved from closure.

The stores in Oswestry, Telford and Bridgnorth are not among the 94 restaurants to close nationwide.

It comes as it was announced hundreds of jobs are to be axed at Prezzo after the restaurant chain agreed a restructuring plan that will see nearly 100 sites close.

These include Chimichanga in Telford's Southwater complex and Prezzo's branch in West Bromwich.

The company, owned by private equity firm TPG Capital, secured the backing of creditors for a company voluntary arrangement (CVA), which will allow the Italian-themed chain to exit unprofitable branches and secure rent reductions. A total of 94 of Prezzo's 300 outlets will close, with around 500 jobs understood to be in the firing line, although many staff will be redeployed at other restaurants.

Prezzo, which worked with AlixPartners on the restructuring, employs 4,500 people.

The CVA proposal was backed by 88 per cent of the creditors, including landlords.

Prezzo boss Jon Hendry-Pickup said: "I would like to thank our creditors and landlords for supporting our transformation plan."

"While we continue to be profitable, the pressures on our industry have been well documented."

"It has been a challenging time during the CVA process and I would like to thank our suppliers, colleagues and customers for their patience and support."

The 94 restaurants identified for closure are likely to shut in April and May.

Eisteddfod honour for talented Harris



Harris Morgan-Booth shows his certificate for the Urdd National Eisteddfod

AN Oswestry School pupil is heading to the Urdd National Eisteddfod this year after impressing judges with his musical talents.

First Form pupil Harris Morgan-Booth won a regional competition for the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Ysgol Dyffryn in Llangadfan.

Harris placed first in the Year 7-9 class with his brass solo and he will now go through to the main competition held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells from May 28 to June 2.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod is one of Europe's largest youth touring festivals that attracts around 90,000 visitors each year.

Over 15,000 children and young people under the age of 25 compete during the Eisteddfod week in various competitions such as singing, dancing and performing.

They are the elite few from around 40,000 competitors across Wales who, like Harris, won their place following local and regional rounds held in the spring months leading up to the Eisteddfod.

The Eisteddfod is not new to Harris, in 2017 he was placed second in Wales for the Year 3-6 class.

Carpetright plans place jobs at risk at outlets

EMBATTLED retailer Carpetright, which has a store in Oswestry, has put jobs under threat as it draws up sweeping restructuring plans which will close poorly-performing stores and see it tap investors for up to £60 million.

The group said it was exploring a company voluntary arrangement to help shore up its financial position, a move which would allow it to close loss-making shops and secure deep discounts on rental costs.

If the CVA goes ahead, Carpetright would push through an equity issue of between £40 million and £60 million to fund plans to reboot the business and drive down debt.

The group has 409 UK shops including branches in Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry, as well as Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Kidderminster, Oldbury, Stafford and two in Cannock. With another 138 stores in Ireland, Belgium and Holland, Carpetright employs around 3,000 people.

The company said it had also agreed a £12.5 million unsecured loan from major shareholder Meditor to help with "short-term working capital requirements".

Carpetright chief executive Wilf Walsh said it would be "business as usual" for the flooring firm's stores during Easter and it would remain in "close contact" with staff over its restructuring plans.

He said: "I am pleased that we have secured this additional support from one of our major shareholders as we continue to explore the feasibility of a CVA and a conditional equity issue. These further cash resources will enable us to make the necessary decisions free from short-term funding pressure."

Report by Jonny Drury

TWO planning developments to build nearly 40 homes in a village between Oswestry and Welshpool have been rejected by councillors.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of Powys County Council's planning committee where members first discussed an application from Mr DC Roberts, to build 34 homes on land at Oldfield Farm in Four Crosses.

Originally the application was for 44 houses, but it was reduced to 34.

Four Crosses and Llandrino have been subject to numerous planning applications and developments in recent years.

Objections to the applications had been submitted by Llandysilio Community Council.

In the representations, the council called for the number of homes in the application to be reduced to 24.

It also claimed that the lack of a five-year housing supply should not override all considerations.

Despite planners recommending the development for conditional consent, the plans were rejected.

Llandysilio Community Council objected to another application, this time to build five homes at Greenfields Farm in the village. Arguing about a lack of infrastructure, the council said: "This is a key element in the development of large villages such as Four Crosses."

Planners recommended the plans for refusal due to having an adverse effect on the character of the area, and councillors voted to reject the plans.

Planners reject bids to build homes in village

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gallery talk will be one to treasure

TREASURES currently on show at the National Gallery in London will be the subject of a talk.

Oswestry Borders U3A will meet at the Senior Citizen's Club in Lorne Street on Wednesday next week.

Sarah Gathercole is a popular and knowledgeable speaker and has lectured on Western European Art History for 15 years.

Her talk, from 2pm to 4pm, costs £1 and includes refreshments.

Newcomers to Oswestry Borders U3A are welcome to attend a couple of meetings, or interest groups sessions, as guests before making a decision to join.

For further information about the group people can go to oswestrybordersu3a.wordpress.com or call (01691) 772693.

Mobility scooter stolen from van

THIEVES stole a mobility scooter from the back of a van, leaving the company that was repairing it searching for another so the owner can leave her house.

The scooter was taken from the vehicle in Park Crescent, Park Hall, near Oswestry at about midnight on Sunday night. The thieves also smashed the rear and side window of a Renault Clio parked on the same driveway and and stole a wheel from the vehicle.

Owner of Shropshire Mobility Repairs Andrea Marston said the scooter had been due to be delivered to a customer.

"We're absolutely devastated for the customer and cannot believe that mindless criminals can sink to such lows of stealing a mobility scooter," she said.

Anyone with information can call the police on 101 quoting incident number 0080s 260318.

Community champion award for firm



Clive Knowles from the ironwork centre receives the award from Simon Wright

BOSSES at a popular visitor attraction near Oswestry have been honoured for their support of the local National Health Service.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust honoured The British Ironwork Centre at a recent presentation for its contribution to the trust and its work.

Simon Wright, chief executive of The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), welcomed Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital for a presentation.

Mr Wright presented Mr Knowles with a Community Champion award.

The award was presented to the visitor attraction in recognition of the business's support and commitment to the trust.

The British Ironwork Centre is supporting SaTH throughout 2018 – the 70th year of the NHS – with a number of projects, including the creation of a sculpture that will be made from obsolete hospital equipment.

Mr Wright said: "I am very grateful to Clive and everyone at the British Ironwork Centre for their support and look forward to working with them on this exciting sculpture project."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Elvis tribute act to return

FOLLOWING a successful sell-out evening last year, Elvis Presley tribute act Eddie P makes a return appearance to the Church House in Welshpool on April 14 from 7.30pm.

He will start the evening off with a general set of both country and rock n roll numbers, then following supper will pay tribute to Elvis in his GI days and then the Vegas era.

With over half the tickets already sold people are advised to get them without delay from Welshpool Jewelers in High Street priced at £10 each to include supper and pudding.

People are advised to bring their own alcoholic drinks and glasses.

Award hope for student nurse

A STUDENT nurse is in the running for one of the top national nursing awards.

Nurses from the University of Wolverhampton have been shortlisted in the Student Nursing Times Awards, which celebrate the best nursing education.

One of the nurses shortlisted for student nurse of the year is Elizabeth Bailey from Welshpool. The 28-year-old has been an advocate for learning disability nursing at a national level including at forums such as the Royal College of Nurses Congress.

She said: "I am really excited and thankful to have been shortlisted for this award because I am passionate about learning disability nursing."

The Student Nursing Times Awards will take place on April 26 at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

Schools missing out on repair cash, AM claims

Report by Jonny Drury

SCHOOLS in Powys are set to miss out on their "fair share" of a £14 million fund for essential repairs, according to Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George.

The money is set to be administered by local authorities but analysis of the allocations reveals that Powys schools will be underfunded by 36 per cent for school repairs compared to schools in Swansea, despite being responsible for the maintenance of more schools.

Figures from written Assembly questions from shadow education secretary Darren Millar showed Powys, which has 97 maintained schools, will get £645,490 while Swansea, which has 95 maintained schools, will get over £1 million. Mr George said:

"The additional money for school repairs is welcome, but I am concerned that schools in Mid Wales are being underfunded once again.

"We know that schools right across Wales are struggling to pay for essential repairs without compromising teaching standards, but these issues are just as likely to affect head teachers in Montgomeryshire, as they are heads in Swansea."

"Sadly, communities in Mid Wales have been short-changed again."

"This money needs to be distributed fairly – and it is vital that it reaches the frontline without being swallowed up in council bureaucracy."

National recognition for museum



Powysland Museum has won full accreditation from the Arts Council in England

A HANDFUL of museums in Powys have all been awarded full accreditation by the Arts Council of England.

Powysland Museum in Welshpool, Llanidloes Museum and the Radnorshire Museum in Lladrindod Wells have all been awarded full accreditation following assessment.

This follows similar awards in 2005 and 2013 and demonstrates the consistency and quality of Powys Museum Service in terms of care of and access to collections, visitor facilities and user-friendliness.

Museum Accreditation is a UK wide scheme which sets standards for museum management, collection care and public service.

The Welsh Government manages the scheme for Wales in partnership with Arts Council England.

Cabinet member for museums at Powys County Council Councillor Rachel Powell said: "I am delighted that our museums have again demonstrated that they reach the very highest standards and have received national recognition."

Steak out the area for tasty treat in town pub

RESIDENTS in Welshpool have been offered the chance to take part in a tasty community treasure hunt to celebrate the opening of a newly refurbished pub.

The Smithfield Bell in Mill Lane is holding a "Great Steak Out" and managers Christopher Birdsell and Lucie Jones are hoping residents will join the stampede in the hunt for "Grill and Pizza" cow bells hidden throughout the town which they'll be able to exchange for a range of treats in the pub.

Christopher said: "The Smithfield Bell reopened after a refurbishment into a Grill and Pizza Pub and with spring well and truly on its way and people keen to get out and make the most of the better weather, we thought this would be a great way for them to get outside and take part in a bit of a treasure hunt."

"But instead of hiding Easter eggs as you might expect at this time of year, we've decided to hide cow bells as a nod to our new steakhouse status and to offer treats, including drinks and meals, for families and friends after bringing them together to solve the clues and find the prizes."

Lucie added: "The bells could be hidden anywhere within the community; doctors' surgeries, community centres, playgrounds or libraries, so it's a challenge for all ages to take part in."

The Great Steak Out will take place from April 6 until April 16.

For clues on how to get your hands on the hidden cow bells visit facebook.com/smithfieldbellmarstons/

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12 Unemployment is on the rise across region

UNEMPLOYMENT has risen across Shropshire and Mid Wales, latest figures show.

Findings from the Office for National Statistics show 225 more people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance in Shropshire than the previous month.

The Shropshire Council area saw a total increase of 130 people, taking the total to 2,345, meaning 1.3 per cent of the workforce was receiving jobless benefits.

In Telford & Wrekin, 95 more people were unemployed, making its total 2,020. This represents 1.9 per cent of the workforce. In Powys, 50 more people were unemployed, making its total 785. This represents one per cent of the workforce.

Gareth Niblett, Job Centre customer services manager for Shropshire, said: "There is no real explanation as to why there has been a slight increase. There have been no large redundancies announced and we are not aware of any closures coming on board. We have been doing a lot of work with B&M who are looking to take on more staff in Shrewsbury. Next is looking to recruit temporary sales assistants in its stores."

"Wimpy is opening a new store in Shrewsbury and we have had them in doing some group information sessions. We have organised and supported various events."

Investment of £500,000 on 200 new beds

THE trust running Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has invested £500,000 in buying 200 new beds.

The hospital took delivery of the new beds at the weekend.

Linda Head, moving and handling co-ordinator, said: "To ensure the trust is fit for the 21st century which concurs with a 'world renowned centre of excellence in orthopaedics' the procurement of modern beds and new mattresses has been essential. At a time when there is high demand for financing projects, it is reassuring that the trust has recognised this need as we pursue the goal to provide the best quality care for all of our patients."

"The right beds will assist in providing a safe environment for our patients, improve clinical efficacy and help reduce the risk of injuries to both patients and staff."

Bev Tabernacle, director of nursing and deputy chief executive said ahead of the beds arriving: "These beds are a wonderful investment and will make a real difference to our patients and how comfortable they are while they're here with us. Delivery of the beds will unfortunately mean some disruption and for that we would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused but I'm sure you'll agree the end result is certainly worthwhile for our patients."

Wynnstay to step up investment

AGRICULTURAL and retail group Wynnstay, which is based at Llansantffraid, is to step up investment in its seed facility near Shrewsbury.

Chief executive Ken Greetham outlined the plan for the Wynnstay Arable operation at Astley Park at the group's annual general meeting.

Investment will involve creating a new warehouse for storage as well as expanding its retail store, creating about six jobs.

Mr Greetham said demand for spring seed was encouraging, with most orders already on the books for the season.

"Over the year, we plan to invest in our seed facility at Astley, supporting Wynnstay's position as the UK's third largest seed producer, as well as in our feed mills," he said.

Trading in the first four months of the new financial year has been encouraging for Wynnstay, with increased demand for most products.

Mr Greetham added: "In the agricultural division, current feed demand is above last year's levels and we are seeing efficiency benefits from our investment at our Llansantffraid feed mill. Sales of fertiliser have started to increase after tempered autumn demand, and we expect a busy trading period ahead of the spring market."

Call for cross-border commitment to scheme which could prevent flooding in Severn Valley

Report by Jonny Drury

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has called for cross-border commitment to the proposed Pumlumon project which could prevent flooding in the Severn Valley.

The Pumlumon Project, led by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, aims to pioneer an upland economy built around wildlife, ecology and long-term sustainability across 100,000 acres of the Cambrian Mountain range, stretching between Llanidloes, Machynlleth and Aberystwyth.

The project involves re-wetting peat bogs and connecting existing habitats to create natural pathways, holding back enormous amounts of rainwater and melting snow to prevent flooding further down the Severn Valley.

The project would also give more support

to viable communities to create more natural landscapes, more diverse wildlife, cleaner water and to store carbon.

During a House of Commons debate on Welsh affairs, Mr Davies raised the importance of cross-border co-operation to secure funding for the Pumlumon Project, proposing it as a project suitable for support within a Mid Wales Growth Deal.

Speaking during the debate, Glyn Davies MP said: "The Pumlumon Project is a ground-breaking scheme which would bring economic benefit to the uplands of Mid Wales, ecological benefit and flood prevention benefits

to the whole Severn Valley. But it cannot be delivered without financial and political support from both sides of the England-Wales border.

"The area concerned is about 100,000 acres of mostly peaty land, between Machynlleth, Llanidloes and Aberystwyth.

Expanse

"It is a huge expanse, which over the decades, has been extensively drained.

"The water that falls upon it during heavy rain, runs off too quickly, causing flooding in England.

"There would be great benefit in re-wetting this land, making financial allowance to those farming it, under a Pumlumon project, creating more natural diversity, and a sustainable

funding stream to local communities. A properly funded Pumlumon scheme would enable more farmers to remain within the project area, strengthening local communities.

"There is already much local support for the principles underpinning such the scheme.

"The major benefit, however, would fall in England—to those towns and cities downstream in the Severn Valley.

"It would be unreasonable to expect a Welsh Government to meet all the cost of a scheme which largely benefits England.

"We need a cross-border arrangement between the UK and Welsh Governments.

"The Pumlumon Project is an ideal scheme to be funded as part of the Mid Wales Growth Deal."

Chief says force will get better following criticism

Report by Mark Andrews

THE chief constable of West Mercia Police has said he was disappointed the force had been criticised by government inspectors – but that improvements had been made since the inspection last year.

Anthony Bangham acknowledged that there was work to do following a report from HM Inspectorate of Constabularies.

But he said the report – which rated the force as "requiring improvement" – also identified a number of positive areas in its performance.

"Although we are disappointed that the inspectorate felt we had not responded well enough to previous recommendations, there were several examples in the inspection of positive work ongoing across the force area," he said.

Understand

"This included recognition for the force's work to understand the signs of vulnerability and our investigations involving vulnerable people. We are pleased to see this as it clearly reflects the force's aim to focus on protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities."

He said the force covered a large geographic area with a diverse range of issues.

The report was particularly critical of the way the force dealt with serious and organised crime, and Mr Bangham said during the last six months it had looked at working more closely with the community to tackle this.

He said: "We now have much better partnership structures in place focused on identifying the specific issues in each community, working with the appropriate partners and addressing these using a range of approaches and tactics to disrupt and reduce criminal activity."

"Accepting as an organisation we were not where we should have been last year in respect to the areas inspected, I am confident that significant focus has been given to addressing the areas highlighted."

Mr Bangham added that the force would introduce new working patterns that would mean that more officers and staff would be deployed at the times of highest demand.

"This will ensure we have the right people available at the right time to deliver the best possible protection to our communities," he said. "This new model ensures clear focus on identifying criminal activity, arresting the offenders and protecting vulnerable victims."

Now the The Army Children of the First World War project, set up as part of the commemorations of the centenary of the conflict,

Can you shed some light on war photograph?



An appeal has been made for information about this photograph which was taken in Welshpool during the First World War

A HISTORY project is asking for the public's help in finding out more about a mystery First World War picture.

Few details are known about the family in the image apart from that the photo was taken in Welshpool during the First World War.

Now the The Army Children of the First World War project, set up as part of the commemorations of the centenary of the conflict,

is asking people to come forward with information about those in the image. The project's aim is to collect, preserve and share information about British army children and their history.

Clare Gibson, founder of The Army Children Archive said: "We know from the details emblazoned across the bottom right-hand corner of this real photographic postcard that the stu-

dio that produced it was 'Anderson / Welshpool (in Montgomeryshire)'. A family of five are portrayed in the studio. At the front sits a girl in a lace dress, with her two brothers standing behind her, no doubt dressed in their best. They are flanked by their parents. Their soldier-father holds a swagger stick across his knees. His cap badge is that of a fusiliers' regiment, perhaps the Royal Welsh Fusiliers."

Inspectors commend work of police in latest report

A POLICE force which has been striving to improve has been rated as 'good' in a new report from inspectors.

Dyfed-Powys Police received further assurance that wholesale change across the force which was introduced over 12 months ago is making the difference.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services has graded the force as good for a second time following a report in 2017.

The report says: "Dyfed-Powys Police is good

at keeping people safe and reducing crime. The force has made improvements since 2016, and HMICFRS is confident that Dyfed-Powys Police will continue to make steady improvements to the services it provides to the public."

In 2017, chief constable Mark Collins set out three aims, to deliver a quality service to victims, look after the most vulnerable and do the basic things right.

Deputy chief constable Darren Davies was assigned to oversee the progress from the previous report, and insists the latest news cred-

its the hard work by staff across the force. He said: "The publication of the report acknowledges the hard work of all of our staff and the sustained improvements the force has made in delivering policing across Dyfed-Powys Police."

"We have made changes at the first point of contact, through to the support available to victims. We have introduced specialist teams to tackle the shifts in demand and crime types and, are kitting our officers out with the technology they need to keep them visible, available and accountable while active in our communi-

ties. We have listened to our staff and communities and implemented many of their ideas, which in turn have brought about these improvements.

"We've come a long way in the last 12 to 18 months, but there is still a lot more we want to do."

"To come from a position of 'Requiring Improvement' across the board hasn't been easy, but to receive this grading signals that the hard work of many is delivering what we and our communities want and need."

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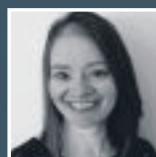
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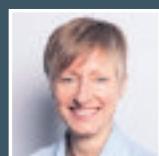
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Control room closure means emergency calls will not be answered in Shropshire

ANYONE interested in sharing their views on the services that Severn Trent provides is being invited to join Tap Chat, the company's new online community panel.

The company, which supplies clean and waste water services to millions of customers across the Midlands and mid and north Wales, is looking for over 10,000 people of all ages, all walks of life and from all areas to help it set its priorities for the future.

Liv Garfield, Severn Trent chief executive, said: "We want to hear that from our customers about the things that really matter to them so we can offer them an even better service."

"It's really easy to sign up and, once you've done that, you can have your say on how we should run the business, about what our priorities should be, and on how we make sure we're doing the right thing for all of our customers."

"It's a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference to an absolutely vital service that touches the lives of millions of people every single day."

Anyone taking part will be entered into draws to win high street vouchers, and the more times people take part, the more draws they'll be entered into.

To sign up to the online community, which was created by Join the Dots for Severn Trent, go to stwater.co.uk/tapchat

Demand for homes flagged up by trust

PEOPLE in Shropshire are being forced out of home ownership and cannot find good quality affordable homes for rent, a new report has revealed.

Across the Shropshire area, the average income is £26,442 against the average house price of £234,368.

The mean monthly rent for a property in Shropshire in the private sector is £573.

The Wrekin Housing Trust said there was a lack of housing within the county, with not enough homes being built annually.

Wayne Gethings, managing director at The Wrekin Housing Trust, believes there is capacity to construct more houses, but it is being stumped by challenges in finding land both suitable and affordable.

He said: "There are lots of sites across Shropshire that have planning, but this does not mean they are development-ready. If land has previously been used as an industrial site or a waste disposal site, for example, we would have to undertake works to make sure there were no contaminants in the soil or groundwater."

"We also have to consider infrastructure and facilities for the people moving in and may be asked to contribute towards the cost of more schooling or highways provision, or improved drainage."

Marches students in county honour

STUDENTS from The Marches School in Oswestry were selected to represent Shropshire at the West Midlands Regional Sportshall Championships.

Pupils faced strong opposition competing against athletes from larger counties including, Birmingham, Warwickshire and Hereford, and Worcester.

Year 7 Massimo Wyatt and Year 8 Tom Hotchkiss, also members of Oswestry Olympians, enjoyed being selected for the county for the third year running. Tom confirmed the progress he has made this year qualifying for the final of the four lap race. He completed a successful day by adding almost 30cm to his personal best in the standing triple jump, with a leap of 6.30 metres.

Luke McGlinchey was selected for the under 15 girls shot after winning every winter Sportshall shot put event when competing for Oswestry Olympians.

Luke Steel of Year 8 made it a family double with his selection for the under 13 boys team, just a few weeks after his sister Jess celebrated selection for the under 11 girls team.

Neal Martin, head of PE, said: "We are very proud and supportive of our pupils and being selected to represent Shropshire is a huge achievement."

EMERGENCY calls to police in Shropshire will no longer be answered in the county.

A restructuring will see the closure of West Mercia Police's Shropshire control room.

It means 999 calls will no longer be dealt with at the site at Battlefield in Shrewsbury. Instead, call handlers in Worcester will deal with calls to West Mercia Police.

Staff working at Battlefield were asked if they would move 50 miles to Worcester. Only three took up the offer and it is understood 12 further members of staff have chosen to take redundancy.

It is understood 18 people have agreed to stay on as a call taker to cover the shortfall until August. Worcester's two control rooms currently cover Worcester, Kidderminster, Pershore,

Report by Lucy Todman

Evesham, Malvern, Droitwich, Bromsgrove and Redditch.

Five divisional 'radio bays' for the force will also be managed by the Worcester control room. Calls coming in to the control room are passed to the geographic radio bays, where they are then allocated to officers on the beat.

It is understood that it is normal practice for at least two people to be on each of the five radio bays 24 hours a day, with further people on each bay to cover staff sickness and leave.

The north control room in Worcester is set to close and sources within the force say there are fears that the south Worcester control room

will not have enough trained staff to run the bays.

The force is in the process of employing new staff. However they will be employed initially as call handlers and only when they have completed their training will they become a dispatcher. Superintendent Emma Bastone, from West Mercia Police, said: "Full consultation is ongoing with call handling staff at our current centre at Battlefield, with a number of staff planning to relocate to the new OCC at Hindlip. We are committed to protecting people from harm, and these new centres will help us to achieve this and ensure the public gets the right service first time."

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "£23.5 million has been invested in the new state-of-the-art shared OCC facility, which will bring a better service for the public in communities right across West Mercia. The significant improvements around technology, telecoms and estate will allow a more effective and efficient response to emergencies, with the public getting the right help at the right time."

One West Mercia Police call centre worker, who wished to remain anonymous, accused the force of "cutting corners".

Concerns were also raised that the move was being rushed, leaving inexperienced staff in charge. The call handler said: "Staff who have only been employed for a short time are being used to train new members of staff and also being allowed to become dispatchers earlier because of the staff shortfall."

Motorist banned for two years after causing road crash

Report by Dominic Robertson

A MAN who overtook a lorry causing a head-on crash has been banned from driving.

Defendant James Rigby, 28, of Llanyngog, near Oswestry, had previously pleaded not guilty to driving a Seat Leon dangerously on the A490 near Welshpool on February 14 and a trial was due this month.

But last week he admitted the charge at Mold Crown Court and he was fined £800 with £450 costs.

Judge Rhys Rowlands also banned him from driving for two years and ordered him to take an extended re-test.

It was a bad piece of driving which had serious consequences, the judge said.

Prosecutor Richard Edwards told how at about 6pm on February 14 last year the defendant was driving along the A490 towards Welshpool when he came up behind a HGV.

Injuring

He pulled out to overtake and crashed head-on into an on-coming vehicle, injuring its driver. The victim had tried to pull over to the left to avoid a collision but there was nowhere for him to go. His car rolled over onto its roof and he was able to crawl out.

Rigby immediately apologised and said that it was his fault.

The court heard that the victim had two days off work, he had injuries to his arm, and was now nervous driving at night and was nervous travelling as a passenger.

Interviewed by police, Rigby said that he would not have overtaken in the daylight.

But it was dark and he believed he would have seen oncoming headlights.

Rigby, a mechanic engineer, represented himself and said that he accepted that his driving was dangerous.

He had reconsidered and watched the footage from the HGV dash cam and said he was deeply sorry for what he had done.

Since the accident his driving had "changed completely". He said: "It has really shook us all up." Rigby said that he had a family – including a new born – and he had decided to move house so that he would be closer to work and would be able to cycle in.

Judge Rowlands said that he had overtaken in a dangerous place. He said: "It was plainly a dangerous manoeuvre which had serious consequences for the on-coming motorist."

Easter treats await for young visitors to railway



There is plenty of Easter fun to be had and sights to enjoy for families visiting the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

EASTER is a great time to take the family on a steam railway trip according to the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway.

Bosses say the daffodils are out and the hills and fields are green.

There is also a special treat for the children, from Saturday to Monday this weekend.

Activity sheets will be given to every child traveller so that they can spot the giant Easter

eggs along the line. At the Llanfair Caereinion terminus each train will be met by the Easter Bunny with chocolate eggs for the children. and red kites or buzzards almost anywhere. Llanfair Station tearoom is also a great place for a light lunch or afternoon tea and cakes."

The spokesman added: "Three to five trains leave Welshpool every day during the Easter holidays."

Full details and online discounts are on the website at www.wllr.org.uk or people can call (01938) 810441.

Cuts made despite fears over impact on schools

CUTS to a service that supports failing schools have been agreed despite Shropshire Council acknowledging a "substantial risk" that standards will slip.

The changes to the council's Education Improvement Service (EIS) will see the number of staff reduced by almost half. It comes after a £2.5 million reduction in government funding in Shropshire's education services in the next financial year. The restructure was approved by Shropshire Council's cabinet after members heard that maintaining the current level of ser-

vices would require an additional £276,000 per year. The EIS helps improve schools which are considered to be struggling, and also ensures the welfare and safeguarding of pupils.

It was last restructured in September 2015, when the number of full-time equivalent staff dropped from 36.4 to 17. The new changes will see that number fall to nine, meaning less support available to help get struggling schools back on track.

The staffing changes will come into effect in September this year and in April 2019 the

traded EIS professional training development programme will come to an end.

The report said there would be "substantial risk" that the reduced service will result in declining outcomes for pupils, and fewer schools could be judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. Nick Bardsley, cabinet member for education, said: "I'm not pretending that this is not a reduction in service and this is where we would like to be." He said the funding cuts would not mean schools have nowhere to turn for support, as they had the option to work with

the four teaching partnerships in Shropshire. There are 150 state-funded schools in Shropshire – 107 are maintained by the council, and the remaining 43 consist of academies and one free school. Approximately half of the academies buy back school improvement services through the EIS. As more schools become academies and the number of maintained schools reduces, the levels of funding that can be secured through this route in future years will also fall, as will the responsibility to provide support, the report said.

Driver who 'scared youngsters' was attacked by men

TWO men attacked a teenage driver after he frightened children in a village near Oswestry, a court has heard.

The court was told social media rumours about what had happened in St Martins fuelled the anger of Francis Williams who drove to find the 18-year-old driver of the car which had scared the youngsters. He challenged the driver before punching and kicking him. He was joined by Adam Shaw who threw the victim to the ground. At Shrewsbury Crown Court on Tuesday, Williams, 37, of Ellesmere Road,

St Martins, was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years and ordered to pay £1,075 compensation and £340 costs.

Shaw, 33, of Greenfield Street, St Martins, was ordered to do 150 hours unpaid work and pay £875 compensation and £538 costs. Both were ordered not to contact the teenager, his mother or her other children. Both men admitted assault causing actual bodily harm at an earlier hearing. Judge Anthony Lowe, who heard the men accepted that their victim had been entirely innocent, said whatever they be-

lieved at the time they should not have resorted to violence. Jonathan Veasey-Pugh, prosecuting, said the incident happened in July last year when a group of children ran away in fear from a car in St Martins. The teenage driver told police he had accidentally over-revved his car. Williams was told about the incident by one of the children and drove off to nearby Gobowen looking for the teenager.

Debra White for Shaw said Chinese whispers had led to the incident escalating. She said Shaw had no previous convictions and was a hard working, family man.

Tree appeal boosts charities



Oswestry Rotary Club gives the cheque to the Marches Riding for Disabled Group

A TREE of light appeal last Christmas is helping several charities.

Oswestry Rotary Club's annual Tree of Light allows people and businesses to raise funds to support charities in their community in memory of a loved one.

This year the appeal raised £6,000 for the benefit of 11 local charities who have started to receive their donations.

The latest to benefit have been the Oswestry Stroke Club and The Marches Riding for the Disabled Group.

Mike Garratt, chair of Oswestry and District's Stroke Club, a self-help and social group for people who have suffered a stroke and their carers, said the money would be used to help raise the profile of the group.

The club meets in the Senior Citizen's Club in Lorne Street the second Thursday of the month from 2-4pm.

A cheque was also given to the Marches Riding for the Disabled Group that meets at Penycoed Stables in Pant on Thursday mornings.

Trustee Agnes Barbour said: "Whilst riders make a contribution to the sessions, we have to meet the significant costs of horse hire and insurance."

"This donation will allow us to provide a horse mounting block for use in the new indoor facility at Penycoed."

"Groups like ours depend on donations like this as well as our own fundraising but we also need the help of volunteers."

"We welcome volunteers who have horse experience who want to get involved."

A cheque was also given to the League of Friends of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital for the Horatio's Garden project.

The hospital will be one of only five in the country to have a Horatio Garden, a special garden to allow patients at the Midlands Spinal Injuries Unit access to an area they could share with family and friends or just be on their own. The appeal now needs £120,000 towards the target of £675,000 and donations can be made online at mydonate.bt.com/events/oswestry.

Waste collection reminder given to residents

HOUSEHOLDERS in Shropshire are being reminded that their recycling and waste will be collected a day later following Easter Monday – for this week only.

Collection crews will be working tomorrow (Good Friday) and waste will be collected as normal that day.

However, as a result of the Easter Monday bank holiday, collections due to be made from Monday will be made a day later than normal.

Collections will return to normal on Monday, April 9. Any residents unsure about which day they should put out their recycling or waste are asked to check their collection calendar or check out their bin day online using the local authority website

at www.shropshire.gov.uk/bin/day. Tim Walters, communications manager at Veolia, said: "We are reminding people that their recycling and waste containers will be collected a day late for the week following the Easter weekend."

"If anyone is unsure when their collection day is, they can also check their collection calendars. The Household Recycling Centres will be open 9am to 5pm each day as usual during the Easter break. Residents are also reminded that they can recycle Easter cards without glitter and the cardboard packaging from Easter Eggs in their blue bag."

Meanwhile, in Mid Wales recycling and waste collections will not be affected by the Easter Bank Holiday with collections on

both Good Friday and Easter Monday as normal. Householders and trade waste customers are being reminded that they should place out their recycling and waste by 7.30am on their collection day.

Councillor Phyl Davies, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "Recycling the extra packaging produced at Easter is important and will help towards achieving the strict recycling targets set by Welsh Government."

"Cardboard packaging, envelopes and cards can be recycled in your blue paper and card box and hard plastic items and silver foil packaging usually found around Easter eggs can be recycled in your red plastic and cans box."

Tribute paid after death of former MP

AN MP has paid tribute to former Secretary of State for Wales Lord Crickhowell.

Lord Crickhowell, who was elected as MP for Pembrokeshire in 1970, died on Monday last week at the age of 84.

He had served in former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet from 1979 to 1987.

During his time as Secretary of State for Wales, Lord Crickhowell was instrumental in attracting big employers to the country, and was the driving force behind the Cardiff Bay transformation.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies said: "He was a friend of mine, and a very good friend of Wales. I knew him best as Nicolas Edwards, MP for Pembrokeshire and Secretary of State for Wales through most of the 1980s."

"He was a great champion of Wales during the early years of Margaret Thatcher's Government, and ensured her approach to Wales was different, and more sensitive to Welsh interests adopting more 'interventionist' policies than in England."

"It was he who first appointed me to a public position in Wales many years ago and began my career as a politician beyond Montgomeryshire. He was responsible for starting me down the path that led to me speaking the House of Commons on the day he died."

Hospital backs staff to study for degrees

TWO members of staff at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital will be studying for a Foundation Degree in Hospital Engineering this coming autumn.

Ben Huband, electrical trainee technician, and Mark Stedman, mechanical trainee technician, are undertaking the qualification through Staffordshire University and Eastwood Park Training.

As well as the degree they are also completing an in-house trainee programme, facilitated by the trust's estates department, which outlines the core competencies required to be a hospital engineer.

Simon Everett, mechanical estates officer, said: "The trainee technician roles were designed for two aspiring professionals who will learn and work towards leadership roles within the trust."

"These roles are a brilliant opportunity for Ben and Mark to gain relevant experience, a qualification and to work their way up the career ladder."

Mark, who was already an employee at the hospital, said: "When I first heard about the trainee technician roles, I knew this was something I would be interested in. It felt like the right time to make a career move so this was perfect for me. I'm looking forward to starting my qualification later in the year."

Joint workshop for GCSE pupils

STUDENTS from two schools hard at work studying for their GCSEs came together to take part in a series of English workshops and talks.

90 Year 11 pupils from the Marches School in Oswestry and Sir John Talbot's in Whitchurch collaborated for a day to help each other prepare for their final exams.

Workshops were delivered by a former GCSE examiner and teaching staff from both schools, and included developing skills and understanding of narrative writing and language. The day allowed students the opportunity, away from their usual classroom environment.

Young carers enjoy fun and relaxation

YOUNG carers enjoyed an evening of fun and relaxation thanks to an event organised by rotarians.

Borderland Rotary Club, based in Oswestry, hosted an evening of ten pin bowling for young carers from the county at The Venue at Park Hall. The group also enjoyed a meal at The Venue.

16 Singers will be under new music direction

MEMBERS of the Guilsfield Singers hold their first concert with their new music director Paul Wardell at Welshpool Methodist Church on April 14 at 7.30pm.

Paul took over the baton as the choir's music director in January, having previously been accompanist.

As well as the Guilsfield Singers, Paul is busy with other music activities, including work as an organist, accompanist and teacher.

The theme of the concert is "A Celebration of British Music" with choral works from Karl Jenkins, Andrew Carter and others.

Margaret Clennett from the group said: "The major work of the evening will be John Rutter's Magnificat – an exciting, memorable work which is startlingly different in style from his gentle carols which are familiar to many of us. The choir is delighted that Christopher Booth-Jones is singing as baritone soloist. Sarah Garrett, our soprano soloist, will be familiar to many audience members. She has regularly delighted audiences at concerts by the Guilsfield Singers and at other events since her move to Mid Wales some years ago. The accompanist will be Phillip Harratt."

Tickets cost £10 and are available from (01938) 555249 or (01938) 554047, from Welshpool Jewellers, and at the door.

Volunteer Jill is thanked by Prime Minister

A VETERAN hospital volunteer has received a letter of thanks for her hard work and dedication from Theresa May.

Jill Cripps works voluntarily to support patients attending Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital's Disabled Swimming Club.

She has been nominated for a Points of Light Award in recognition of her commitment to patients using the swimming club. Bosses say Jill's sensitivity, patience and gentle understanding with an exceptional measure of drive to encourage participants to relax into the freedom of movement in water are well known among patients and staff.

"Jill's unending commitment to The Disabled Swimming Club is inspirational," said Victoria Sugden, charity director to The League of Friends to the hospital. "We are very proud of her because so many patients have benefitted from her kindness, she really does deserve this accolade."

Points of Light are outstanding individual volunteers who are making a change in their community. Every week day the Prime Minister recognises an inspirational volunteer with the Daily Point of Light award. Jill has been earning her points for over 25 years running the spectacular swimming service to support patients' gradual mobility.

Parking changes are supported

A COUNCIL committee has supported a call for on street parking waiting times to be increased in a north Powys town.

Llanfyllin Town Council has long been pushing for an increase to the waiting times and now the Powys County Council's shire committee has backed the move to increase the waiting time from 40 minutes to one hour, and reduce the parking restriction time from 8am to 6pm, and to between 10am and 4pm.

Local member Councillor Peter Lewis requested support from councillors and said: "Every town is different and Llanfyllin has had to change over the last 10 years to survive. Changing the parking restrictions times I believe will be a big benefit to Llanfyllin."

Deputy Leader Aled Davies said by supporting the move there would be no loss in revenue to the council as the main car park in Llanfyllin is owned by the town council which does not charge for parking.

Councillors voted to support the time changes and Councillor Lewis added: "This is fantastic news for the high street businesses of Llanfyllin to encourage more footfall."

There now will be a public consultation period before the parking changes can be implemented.

Expansion of service will allow patients to be treated by health staff closer to their homes

A NEW service which will allow people with musculoskeletal health problems to access care closer to their homes has been launched by Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

The hospital has been running the Shropshire Orthopaedic Outreach Service (SOOS) from its base for almost two years as well as running a handful of clinics in Shrewsbury and at Oswestry Health Centre.

But the service – which triages GP referrals and assesses what treatment is appropriate for patients – is going through a rapid expansion thanks to backing from Shropshire's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

It is expected to assess about 12,000 patients in the county per year – providing support for patients who would benefit from conservative

treatments such as physiotherapy – whilst ensuring those who need surgical intervention get it.

The expansion got under way last week with clinics starting at the Mayfair Community Centre in Church Stretton. Plans are also being worked up to start running further clinics out of the community hospitals in Ludlow and Whitchurch in the next few weeks as well as establishing a hub in Shrewsbury.

It is hoped to be able to offer clinics in Bridgnorth as well. Dr Chris Tomlinson, clinical lead for SOOS,

said: "We are thrilled to be able to announce these changes as it represents a significant improvement in the quality of the service we can offer our patients by being able to see them closer to home."

"We are now working much more closely with our orthopaedic colleagues to develop care pathways throughout the county, which is extremely exciting for the team."

Dr Shu Ho, clinical director of medicine and consultant physician at the orthopaedic hospital, said: "These changes really demonstrate RJAH's commitment to non-surgical musculoskeletal care, and will also mean our SOOS teams will be seeing more patients than ever before. Mark Brandreth, chief executive, said: "This is a fantastic step forward for this trust

and its musculoskeletal services. These changes signal a new and exciting era for the trust. Having always provided the vast majority of our services from a single site, we will now be seeing our patients in the community, offering ease to our patients as they won't have to travel long distances to be seen."

"As it stands we are continuing with negotiations to be able to offer clinics at different sites elsewhere in the county in the near future. We will ensure our patients are kept updated on this." Dr Julie Davies, director of performance and delivery at Shropshire CCG, said: "Shropshire CCG is delighted to be supporting the expansion of the SOOS service, to bring non-surgical musculoskeletal care closer to the homes of patients."

Commons told of need for improvements to key route

Report by Jonny Drury

THE House of Commons has heard a plea for more progress to be made on improvements to the A458 road between Welshpool and Shropshire.

Glyn Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, raised his concerns about the need for road improvements in the region during a debate on Welsh affairs at Parliament.

During the House of Commons debate Mr Davies raised the need for improved road access between Mid Wales and the English border, highlighting the crucial role it will play in benefiting the Mid Wales economy.

Speaking during the debate, the MP proposed that the Middletown Bypass should be the first project considered as part of the Mid Wales Growth Deal, currently in the early stages of consideration by everyone concerned with the Mid Wales economy.

Economy

He said: "The economy of Mid Wales is particularly dependent on the ability to travel east-west. Good road access to the more populous West Midlands, North West of England and the South East of England are crucial to the economic success of the Severn valley."

"The biggest disadvantage of devolution has been the complexities and delay it has caused to the development of cross-border road connectivity."

"There are two important cross border road schemes awaiting a joint commitment from the UK and Wales Parliaments – a Pant/Llanymynech bypass and a new road replacing the A458 from Welshpool to the English border, popularly known as 'The Middletown Bypass'."

"The road that is most 'affordable' is 'The Middletown Bypass'. This road improvement/replacement is the seven miles between the Buttington Cross roundabout and the Severn Sisters. This project should have gone ahead years ago. From the Welsh perspective, the cost-benefit analysis is excellent and it's likely that the Welsh Government would be willing to commit the funding needed. But there has been very little cost-benefit to the English side."

"It's important that there should be a close working relationship between both sides of the border, ensuring that we deliver schemes for the overall benefit of the UK. A commitment to building a new Middletown Bypass should be considered as the first project on the agenda for the 'Mid Wales Growth Deal'."

Students show off their public speaking talents



The Oswestry School senior winners, from left, speaker Valeria Chertilina, chair Maisie Evans and vote of thanks Tsveta Stratieva

THE winning teams from Oswestry Rotary Club's autumn Youth Speaks competition took part in the District 1180 competition recently.

In the intermediate section, Moreton Hall acquitted themselves well on the topic of anorexia with Maya Falah winning the best

chairman but unfortunately did not progress further. The senior competition saw entries from a bumper number of schools and colleges with entrants divided into two sections with a team from each winning through to the next round. The Oswestry School team spoke

well on the subject "Science Fighting Dogma or Skinny Dipping in Bognor. What is Freedom?" with Valeria Chertilina named the best speaker.

The judges awarded the contest to Oswestry School who will progress to the regional round.

Police chief to take over running of fire service

CONTROVERSIAL plans for West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner to take control of the fire service have been approved by the government.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd approved joint governance proposals put forward by West Mercia's PCC John Campion.

From around June or July the PCC will be responsible for governing Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services, as well as Hereford and Worcester, replacing their respective fire authorities.

Mr Campion said the move would improve collaboration and services to the public.

"This represents a real opportunity to build safer communities, which are served by more effective, efficient emergency services," he said.

"The improvements I aim to deliver have been clear and consistent throughout this process and I will work tirelessly to make sure 'potential' benefits on paper, become realities."

Mr Campion said the changes would allow funds to be directed towards frontline services.

"Our fire authorities have laid good founda-

tions to build from, for which we are all grateful," he said.

"However, the change to single governance will enable new ways of working that will benefit our communities and our emergency services alike."

Ensure

"It will ensure our services are sharing their resources, knowledge and expertise where it makes sense to do so. It will deliver a more efficient use of public money, and it will make sure

more of that money is directed where it should be – towards the frontline services that we all value so much."

Both Telford & Wrekin Council and Shropshire Council voted against the plans.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue's fire authority also vowed to fight the proposals.

Currently, fire and rescue services are overseen by authorities made up of councillors from across the region. But the government has said it wants to see a more joined-up approach in the way police and fire services work together.



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Police urge public to be vigilant as they say sexual exploitation is 'everybody's business'

A STUDENT from Ruyton-XI-Towns near Oswestry has been awarded a prestigious scholarship.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Spacious property has a wealth of period features

A spacious character property with a wealth of period features, Hindford Cottage in Hindford, Whittington lies in a quiet rural hamlet.

It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £375,000 with no chain. With oil central heating, it has a porch, a reception hall, a sitting room, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also car parking, a garage and side and rear gardens including a patio area. The property was built in the late 1800s, once being the home of the manager of the Valve House which is situated adjacent to the property. Hindford Cottage is now an attractive home.

In more detail the porch has an original front door. The reception hall has stairs off and an under-stairs cupboard. The sitting room has a bay window and an original sandstone fireplace with an open fire and oak mantelpiece, a recessed cupboard and wood block flooring. The dining room has a brick fireplace and quarry tiled flooring. Having modern fittings, the breakfast kitchen has a stainless steel sink unit with a mixer tap, matching Shaker-style wall and base units with worktops, a walk in pantry, plumbing for a dishwasher and ceramic tiled flooring. The utility has plumbing for a washing machine, a WC and blue brick floor. Upstairs, the first floor galleried landing has all three bedrooms off and they are all carpeted. There is also a linen cupboard. The bathroom has a white suite comprising of a low level WC, a bath, vanity wash hand basin, a cylinder cupboard and carpeting. The property is accessed via a shared right of way serving the adjacent Valve House which is owned by British United Utilities, and not included in the sale. The Valve House is only a handful of properties built for Liverpool City Corporation as a Walkmans Cottage circa 1889, which help supply water from Lake Vyrnwy to Liverpool. It is still in use as a Valve House.

Outside, the property is an impressive detached house accessed over a gravelled driveway which leads to the detached concrete garage. The side and rear gardens are principally laid to lawn. There is an enclosed private brick walled and floored courtyard.

KEY FEATURES

- Spacious character property
- Wealth of period features
- Quiet hamlet position
- Three bedrooms
- Garage, side/rear gardens

HINDFORD £375,000



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EMAIL: property@jjdell.co.uk



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Property sits in a most attractive rural location

WYKEY, RUYTON-XI-TOWNS
£499,950

Stone House occupies a most attractive rural location on the outskirts of the small hamlet of Wykey approximately one mile from Ruyton-XI-Towns with its local facilities.

The property, understood to date back to the early 19th century, is constructed of sandstone and part rendered under a slated roof. It has a garden and approximately three and a half acres of land.

The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £499,950. Accommodation comprises an entrance lobby, sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, inner hallway, study/bedroom, rear entrance and shower room.

There are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Former pub has been upgraded to spacious family home

MELVERLEY
£480,000 <<<

A former public house having bed and breakfast potential, Tontine Inn on Church Lane, Melverley, Oswestry is now a large detached seven en-suite bedroomed home.

Being spacious and well maintained in a pleasant location, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £480,000 with no chain.

It has been recently upgraded to become a spacious family home.

Having oil fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it includes a large sun room, an open-plan living/dining room with an impressive fireplace, seven first floor bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities. There is also a fitted kitchen, a guest lounge and ancillary ground floor toilets and stores.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.

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78 Acres (31.56 ha)
Guide Price £1,475,000

Build a future with Primesave

Commercial feature

New build homes are now available at Meadowdale, Llanymynech, through Primesave Properties

Local new homes developer Primesave Properties launched its first development in Llanymynech in 2017. Meadowdale is a collection of two, three and four-bedroom homes.

Following the success of the first phase, phase two of the development has now officially launched with a selection of four bed family homes, and two local needs plots now available to reserve. The first phase of the home development was released in spring 2017, with over 90 per cent of the first phase bought off plan. The first phase included a number of two and three bed starter homes, which offered local buyers the opportunity to buy a new home, which they could personalise.

The second phase of the project will see the development of a number of four bed family homes, starting from £249,950. The new homes are perfect for home owners looking for a step up from their first home, or for growing families looking for a central base in Mid Wales, where they can enjoy the benefits of rural living, but with town centre amenities only a short drive away. With potential to personalise the home design by buying off-plan, if you are looking for a new family home in Mid Wales, now is the time to get in touch.

Meadowdale in Llanymynech also has two local needs plots available, offering local people assistance to get on the property ladder from £79,000, with a new home tailored to them.

As there are a limited number of local needs



The Primesave team will help you to build a home perfectly tailored to your individual lifestyle and taste

plots available, and eligibility requirements that new home owners will need to meet, it is recommended that you get in touch with the team today to find out if you could own a new Primesave home.

Primesave Properties are also breaking ground at a second new homes development in Mid Wales in spring 2018, with Heritage Green in Forden officially launching.

Based in beautiful Mid Wales, the development includes 23 properties – a

mixture of two, three and four-bedroom homes, expressions of interest and reservations are now being taken for the development.

The new site in Forden includes two, three and four-bedroom homes along with a spacious three-bedroom bungalow, all of which are proving to be hugely popular after initial marketing.

At Primesave Properties, we aim to work with home buyers to make the buying and moving in process as easy as possible for every

home – so homeowners can enjoy the buying experience from the first moment to receiving the keys.

This includes providing buying support from flexible deposit options through to legal support and more.

Once you've decided which Primesave home is right for you, our team will help you to build a home, perfectly tailored to you – including different kitchen options, choosing carpets and amending internal layouts to suit your individual



Primesave has superb homes to suit all families

lifestyles and tastes. Primesave Properties are already taking reservations for our second phase of homes at Meadowdale, Llanymynech, and at Heritage Green, Forden – so if you are looking for a new home in 2018, please get in touch. Primesave Properties have a number of additional developments planned for 2018, in and around Mid Wales, North Wales and Shropshire – find out more about our current and upcoming developments online – visit www.primesave.co.uk.



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For more information on Meadowdale contact our selling agents:



Contact Keri on **07590 445983** or visit our website for more details: www.primesave.co.uk





Detached home enjoys superb rural views

MOELFRE
£595,000

Town and Country Oswestry are delighted to offer to the market Y Dafarn, Moelfre – a highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home with outstanding countryside views and overlooking Moelfre Lake.

It is on the market with no chain and an asking price of £595,000. It is a perfect country retreat away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The property sits within three acres of fields and gardens.

Accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, living room, shower room, kitchen/breakfast room, laundry, orangery, study, master bedroom with ensuite, three further bedrooms and bathroom.

Contact Town and Country on 01691 679631 for more details.



17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000 <<<

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

Nestled in the hamlet of Hope, Leighton is just two miles from Welshpool, with all necessary services to hand. It is located on the original Offa's Dyke and sits within an acre of garden and grounds in an elevated position on Long Mountain. The result is a magnificent uninterrupted vista across open countryside – a true wow.

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NEW

Off Church Lane
St Martins

£250,000



- A generous 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Situated in a sought after area of the popular village of St Martins.
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room.
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, further two Bedrooms and Bathroom

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- Gas Central Heating and uPVC double glazing throughout
- All blinds and light fittings are included.

NEW



Hennele Gardens
Gobowen

£220,000



- NO CHAIN - A 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated in the popular village of Gobowen, T
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room and Integral Garage.
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Front and rear gardens and driveway to the front.
- Gas C/H and Timber framed single glazing. EPC Rating D (59)

NEW



Prince Street
Oswestry

£90,000

- NO CHAIN AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- A 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace House in need of modernisation
- Situated within walking distance of the centre of Oswestry
- Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen and Shower Room
- On the first floor there are 2 double BedRooms
- Gated off road parking as well as double glazing throughout
- An Ideal First Time or Investment Purchase
- EPC Rating



Building Plot
Chirk Bank

£74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct

NEW

Cae Gwynn Close
Morda

£197,000



- An immaculate presented 4 Bedroom Leasehold Family Home
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- Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility
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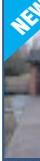


Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant

£400,000



- A stunning Grade II Listed Farmhouse
- Situated in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley
- Reception Hall; Music Room; Sitting Room; Dining Room
- Kitchen Lounge; Kitchen; Utility
- Coal House; Gallery Landing; Loft Storage Room; Integral Garage
- Gun Room; Cellar; 5 First Floor BedRooms
- Family Bathroom; 5 Attic Rooms
- Large Gardens; Orchard/Paddock.



Ellesmere Road,
St Martins

£149,995

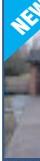
- NO CHAIN
- Spacious 3 bed end of terrace property
- Ent Porch, Hall, Kitchen, Living Room
- Dining Rm, Rear Porch & Conservatory
- 3 good sized beds & Shower Rm
- Generous size plot offering a wide range of uses
- Double Bay & single garage to side
- Oil C/H and uPVC double Glazing. EPC Rating F (30)



Upper Brook
Street

£104,995

- Well presented 2 bedroom mid terraced property
- Situated on the fringe of the town centre
- Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating F (28)
- An Ideal First Time or Investment



Heritage Way
Llanymynech

£184,995



- A generous sized 3 bedroom detached family home
- Situated on a popular residential development
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Area
- Kitchen, Conservatory Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 2 further BedRooms and Family Bathroom
- Hardwood double glazing throughout
- Single garage and driveway providing off road parking
- Gas fired central heating and

- 2 further BedRooms and Family Bathroom
- An enclosed side garden laid to lawn.
- Single garage and driveway providing off road parking
- Gas C/H and UPVC double glazed windows and doors



Whittington Road
Gobowen

£159,995



- A spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Shower Room and 2 BedRooms
- An enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn
- Driveway to the side
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC D/G
- EPC Rating D (62)
- NO CHAIN



Weston Road
Morda

£179,950

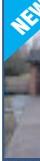
- BRAND NEW
- Oakwood Grange is a small residential development on the edge of the popular village of Morda
- Plot 22 is a 3 Bedroom Detached House with Garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing will be installed as standard
- All properties will be completed to the highest specification
- Comes with the benefit of a 10 year warranty
- LAST PLOT REMAINING



Regent Court
Oswestry

£94,995

- Well appointed 1/2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Purpose built retirement complex
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area/ Bed 2
- Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom
- 24 hour resident secretary facility, communal lounge & garden



Oswals Close
Oswestry

£310,000



- A well proportioned 6 bedroom detached family home
- Lounge, Dining Room and Kitchen, well appointed Kitchen
- Utility Room and Cloakroom
- 6 good sized BedRooms (2 with en-suites) and Family Bathroom.
- Gas fired central heating and
- Hardwood double glazing throughout
- Standard
- Good sized gardens with views over the Brynhaed playing fields
- EPC Rating C (75)

- Large private plot, gated entrance onto drive
- Gravelled parking space & Dble garage
- Enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn
- Mature trees/shrub borders, Paved patio



Llanrhaeadr YM Mochnant

£175,000



- A traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached stone cottage
- Spacious accommodation over three floors comprising
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, and Family Room.
- To the lower level is the Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Utility Room and Shower Room.
- 3 bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- River side garden with wooden decking area
- Oil Fired Central heating and partly double glazed windows
- NO CHAIN



Morda Road
Oswestry

£375,000

- A substantial Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home
- Within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Music Room, Office, Kitchen/Diner
- Double BedRoom, Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 2nd BedRoom with En-suite, 2 further BedRooms & Family Bathroom
- lot of 1/3 acre with front and rear gardens
- Orchard/vegetable patch, poly-tunnel and patio areas
- Driveway & Double garage with workshop.
- 3 good sized BedRooms and Family Bathroom.
- An enclosed lawn area, with patio providing an outdoor seating area.
- Gated side access leading to rear Drive way leading to Double Garage.
- Gas C/H and UPVC Double Glazed windows



Whittington Road
Gobowen

£350,000



- Spacious 4 Bed Detached Family Hse
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Sitting Rm, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Sun Rm, Utility, Cloaks
- Downstairs Bathoom & Bedroom
- Master Bed with en-suite, 2 further BedRooms
- Family Bathroom & Storage Room
- Gas C/H & D/G. EPC Rating C (72)

- Large private plot, gated entrance onto drive
- Gravelled parking space & Dble garage
- Enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn
- Mature trees/shrub borders, Paved patio



Trefonen Road
Morda

£270,000



- An immaculately presented 3 bedroom detached family home
- Set on the edge of the popular village of Morda
- Outstanding views to the rear over open countryside.
- The property has been extended and tastefully renovated throughout
- Entrance Hall, Shower Room/Utility, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge
- 3 BedRooms, family bathroom
- UPVC Double Glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating C (74)
- Garage and gardens with views to rear.



Morda Road
Oswestry

£325,000

- A recently modernised 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Lovely outlook across Oswestry Cricket Ground, perfect for cricket lovers.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room and Sun Room
- 3 good sized BedRooms and Family Bathroom.
- An enclosed lawn area, with patio providing an outdoor seating area.
- Gated side access leading to rear Drive way leading to Double Garage.
- Gas C/H and UPVC Double Glazed windows



Hillside
Oswestry

£99,995

- A 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- Requires modernization throughout
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen and Dining Room
- 3 BedRooms & Family Bathroom
- Good sized garden, close to Old Hill for convenience
- EPC Rating G (9). NO CHAIN

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Superb bungalow is close to all amenities

OSWESTRY
FROM £145,000

1 Whitfield Mews, Oswestry is one of four superb high specification newly built bungalows.

For sale through Town & Country, prices start from £145,000.

These new homes are situated in a most convenient part of Oswestry with all local amenities to hand. The accommodation briefly comprises an open plan living room/kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The properties are warmed by an Energy Efficient Heating System and double glazing and are accessed through a security gate. There are communal security lights the length of the walkway, making the outside area private and secure. A caretaker will maintain the community on a monthly basis.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Excellent barn conversion in superb private location

STANWARDINE
£265,000

<<<

An excellent barn conversion, Oak Barn at Stanwardine Park Farm at Stanwardine, combines an exemplary finish with a superb private location, landscaped gardens and paddocks.

Set two miles from Baschurch and with Oswestry and Shrewsbury each some 10 miles away, it is for sale through Balfours at £265,000 with no chain.

Balfours agent, Duncan Scobie said: "It is the former Jinney ring which provides the ultimate wow factor, in this wonderfully proportioned home with four en-suite bedrooms." Now forming part of the living room and incorporating a raised wood burner, the Jinney Ring area was where once a horse-powered mill worked.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

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NEW

- Spacious Four Bed Detached House
- With Two Bed Detached Bungalow
- Oil Fired And Solid Fuel Heating
- Suitable For Two Families
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Approx. Two Acres Of Land
- Double Garaging To Both Properties
- Store Sheds
- EPC Band - JJD996

GUIDE PRICE £725,000

LLANGYNOG

- Spacious Detached Former House
- View Overlooking The Valley
- OFCH & DG
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Living Room & Dining Room
- Cloakroom & Utility
- Three Bedrooms (Master En Suite)
- Paddock - In All Approx. 2 Acres
- EPC Band - E
- JJD973

GUIDE PRICE £450,000

OSWESTRY

- Semi-Detached Bungalow In Quiet Residential Area
- Within Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- Features:
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Large Rear Garden
- EPC Band - E
- JJD988

GUIDE PRICE £174,950

HINFORD, NR. WHITTINGTON

- Spacious Character Property
- Quality Of Period Features
- OFCH
- Reception Hall
- Sitting Room
- Breakfast Kitchen And Utility
- Three Bed And Car Parking
- Side And Rear Gardens With Patio Area
- EPC Band - F
- JJD994

GUIDE PRICE £375,000

GOBOWEN

- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Minimum Age 55 Years
- Attractive Purpose Built Apartments
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Yard And Garage
- Short Walking Distance From Office
- EPC Band - F
- JJD887

GUIDE PRICE £89,950

OSWESTRY

- Spacious Detached Family House
- Convenient For Town And Local Primary Schools
- GCH
- Reception Hall
- Dining Room & Living Room
- Kitchen
- Utility/Garden Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Well Maintained Gardens
- Garage
- EPC Band - E
- JJD974

GUIDE PRICE £167,500

NR. OSWESTRY

- Range Of Attractive Traditional Stone Barns
- Suitable For Re-Development
- Desirable And Picturesque Hamlet Location
- Mains Electricity And Water Available
- JJD989

GUIDE PRICE £385,000

WEIRBROOK, WEST FELTON

- Attractive Detached Country Cottage
- Quiet Country Lane Location
- Cloakroom And Study
- Living Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Sitting Room
- Garage And Ample Parking
- Approx. Half Acre Plot
- Large South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band-F
- JJD927

GUIDE PRICE £280,000

OVERTON ROAD, NR. ST. MARTINS

- Spacious Detached Character Cottage
- Set Within Extensive Grounds
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Large Living Room
- Four Bedrooms (One En-Suite)
- Parking For Up To 6 Cars
- Integral Garage
- Workshop Annex
- EPC Band - F
- JJD953

GUIDE PRICE £410,000

OSWESTRY

NEW

- Four Bedroomed House On The Outskirts Of Oswestry
- CH And DG
- Kitchen
- Living Room And Dining Room
- Shower Room
- Five Bedrooms
- Toilet
- Double Garage
- Ample Car Parking
- Front And Side Gardens
- Adjoining Paddock
- EPC Band - E
- JJD993

GUIDE PRICE £299,995

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- Unit G - RENT £23,000 (Floor Area - 8,400 sq. ft)
- EPC Band - E
- JJD087

£19,000 & £23,000

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59 Hampton Fields, Oswestry

Two bedroom detached bungalow. Garage, gardens and ample parking. Gas central heating, double glazing. Very popular location close to Oswestry Town Centre. Quiet head of cul-de-sac position. Requires some updating. No chain. EPC Rating = 48(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



£215,000

16 Jennings Road, Oswestry.

Attractive late Victorian terrace property occupying a very popular location overlooking Brynafod Playing Fields. Comprising, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, rear porch, two bedrooms and bathroom. Gas central heating and some replacement double glazing and garden to rear. Offered for sale with no ongoing chain. EPC Rating = D(64)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



O.I.R.O.

£149,950



**14 Queens Road, Oswestry
£220,000**

Large period terrace house with five bedrooms arranged over three floors, plus useable cellars. Set in an established residential street within the town centre convenient for local amenities, schools, shops and supermarkets. Gas central heating. Garden to rear. For sale with no upward chain. EPC Rating = 55(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Tyn-Y-Pistyll, Garth, Glyn Ceiriog
£374,950**

Individual 3 Bedroom Detached House with Outstanding Valley Views. F/floor open plan living accommodation. Landscaped terraced gardens and woodland. Ample on-site parking adjoining the house. EPC Rating = F(30)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Wootton Fields, Queens Head

Attractive well maintained detached cottage set in approx 5 Acres of adjoining grazing. Oil central heating, double glazing. Two receptions. Master bedroom with adjoining dressing room, second bedroom and bathroom. Within easy reach of the A5 Trunk Road enabling access to all major towns. Range of detached ancillary stores. EPC

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



£425,000



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NAB 8491



Well located property in hamlet comes with cottage

LLANGEDWYN
£229,950 >>>

Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley, 2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin, Llangedwyn, comes with an attached single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy, known as Number 1.

Coming with good sized gardens, a range of detached outbuildings and having scope for improvement, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £229,950.

The main drive approach off the access lane passes by a range of brick/stone and slate roofed detached stores providing ample storage.

A small section is included with No1 Glanrafon Cottages, and is therefore subject to the protected tenancy status.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details about the property and to arrange a viewing.



Stunning Grade II farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAEDR
£450,000

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £450,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

In brief, the property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.



Originally forming part of the Wynnstay Estate, the property has an attractive 19th century frontage with an earlier farmhouse now serving as its rear wing. The property has remained in the current owner's family for over 100 years and this sale therefore offers a unique opportunity to purchase one of the area's most historic homes.

Clynog is approached over a well-maintained driveway which is owned by the property with original iron carriage and walking gates leading onto the courtyard with adjoining lawned area which provides access to the property and ample parking.

The agents have been informed it is Grade II Listed and substantial repairs were made to the roof around seven years ago.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Well presented detached family home has six bedrooms

OSWESTRY
£310,000 <<<

Having views over the Brynhafod playing fields, 9 Oswalds Close, Oswestry is a well proportioned six-bedroom detached family home with well presented living accommodation set out over three floors.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £310,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a living room and a dining room, a well appointed kitchen with a utility room and a cloakroom/WC, whilst on the first and second floors there are six good sized bedrooms (two with en-suites) and a family bathroom.

The property has gas fired central heating and hardwood double glazing throughout. Internally the property has been well maintained to the highest of standards whilst outside there are good sized gardens.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Floral Easter Nest Decoration, Multi, £10, John Lewis.



Ostara Ceramic Egg Decorations, set of 12, £36, OKA

Nutrient-rich strawberry will be star of summer

TASTY, sweet and packed with nutrients, these juicy berries – and their leafy bits – deserve a star role this summer. It's difficult to resist a perfectly ripe strawberry, isn't it? In fact, they're one of the most popular berry fruits in the world – but did you know it's not just the sweet red part that's good for us?

Atop each juicy strawberry is a leafy top, called the calyx. Each year, tons of strawberry tops are discarded and chucked away as waste. But this humble leafy crown is actually edible, and may hold the key to unlocking some exciting health benefits.

This isn't just a nutrition issue either, but a question of waste – which is a hot topic right now. Three major WRAP studies estimated that 85% of avoidable food waste arises in households and food manufacture.

With this in mind, and to help us make the most of our produce, here, nutritionist Lily Soutter reveals some of the health benefits of munching your way through whole strawberries.

1. They're a rich source of antioxidants

Antioxidant-rich foods are important to help protect your cells against the effects of free radicals – harmful molecules produced from pollution, sunlight, smoke and even prolonged exercise. "Strawberries are a rich and diverse source of antioxidants. However, what's less well known is that strawberry calyx contains antioxidants too," says Soutter. "However it's important to note that as leaves become older, the ORAC value decreases, so the leaves of fresh strawberries are likely to provide the highest antioxidant value."

2. They support the immune system

Adding a punnet of strawberries to your shopping basket will help support your immune system too. "Not only is the whole strawberry rich in plant antioxidants, but the red fleshy part is also extremely rich in the antioxidant vitamin C," says Soutter.

3. They may help with blood sugar regulation

Next time you're thinking of pasta for dinner, try following up your meal with a bowl of fresh strawberries, alongside a carbohydrate-rich meal, may help to reduce spikes in blood sugar and insulin levels. "While it's not clear why strawberries may have this blood sugar balancing effect, some studies have suggested that it may be down to their rich content of polyphenols (antioxidants), which may influence carbohydrate digestion and absorption."

4. They may have antimicrobial effects

As well as being delicious to eat, strawberries could also have a beneficial effect on the reproduction of bacteria and parasites in the body. "One study analysed the tops and leaves of 200 strawberry plants, and found their large and diverse range of polyphenols are defensive against harmful microbes, and may even have benefit to human health," says Soutter.

5. They may improve heart health

"Numerous studies have found an association between strawberry consumption and improved cardiovascular health," explains Soutter. "It appears their high content of berry anthocyanins may play a role in reducing inflammation and oxidative stress, blood pressure, and even improving our cholesterol profile."

6. They can help with weight management

Strawberries are one of the most guilt-free snacks going; they can satisfy a sweet craving, yet are surprisingly low in sugar and calories. "With just 6g of sugar and 33 calories per 100g, they can provide the sweet fix we desire while keeping our waistlines trim," says Soutter. "And for an even more indulgent option, try dipping strawberries into antioxidant-rich dark chocolate and coconut flakes."

Easy ways to include more strawberries - and their tops - in your diet:

1. Add both to smoothies.
2. Make strawberry leaf tea using the stalks and leaves. Leave both to brew for a few minutes.
3. Create your own salad dressing by soaking the berries, including the tops, in balsamic vinegar for at least 48 hours.
4. Infuse your drinking water by dropping sliced strawberries and their leaves into your bottle.

5. Whizz strawberries in a blender to create a compote that can be used as a breakfast topping.

Hop to it for new Easter themed decor touches

By Gabrielle Fagan

IT'S time to get ready for the Bank Holiday feasts and fun and there are three key themes to consider this year. Easter is a time for celebrations, from egg hunts to gatherings of family and friends for a slap-up feast – and it makes the occasion even more special if you set the scene with some 'spring-spiced' decor touches.

There are three key looks to choose from. Get down with the kids and opt for pretty pastels, with a generous helping of fluffy bunnies (rabbits rule this year) and chicks, or be inspired by nature (this season's all about the outdoors bursting into life and colour).

Alternatively, go grown-up with a sophisticated setting and simple, subtle touches, that just pay a nod to the festival.

With Easter celebrations almost as big a deal as Christmas now, there's a brilliant selection of homeware and accessories to fill your nest with. Here are some of our favourites...

Let rabbits rule in rooms

Hop to it and make the Easter Bunny the star of the show. Add to the fun with a wall display of family photos and embellish each face with cut out paper rabbit ears, and a nose and whiskers.

Let children create their own rabbit 'burrow' using a tent, or rig up a sheet draped over chairs for a den, where they can retreat and enjoy their egg-hunt hauls.

Follow the Scandinavian tradition and decorate tree branches, either gathered from the garden and sprayed white, or buy a ready-made Easter tree.

Hobbycraft has Decorative White Twig Trees from £18 each that would be ideal for the task. Hang with tiny ornaments, from bunnies and birds, to eggs and chicks. Garlands and bunting will add to the atmosphere.

Conjure a blooming natural setting

Spring is all about waking up from winter's dark days and welcoming new growth and life. Bringing nature-inspired elements into decor represents the season and Easter perfectly.

If the weather's not co-operating and your garden's bare, it's still easy to conjure a fresh setting of blooms and foliage. Feature small hand-tied bunches of fresh flowers in vases or clear glass jars, or create a display with faux blooms hanging above a table as a focal point.

Lay an artificial grass table runner down the centre as a finishing touch. Faux effects are so realistic now, it's sometimes barely



Arundel Oak Dining Table, from £1,455; Oak bench, from £435; Southdown Sheepskin Rug, £125; Use a selection of fresh blooms for a hanging focal point or Neptune has a selection of faux stems including Peony, Pink, £14; Hydrangea, White, £19; English Rose Short Stem, Raspberry, £16; Dahlia Stem, Cream, £10, Neptune.

possible to distinguish them from the real thing.

Add to the theme with a table centre piece – either a pretty Easter wreath or faux birds' nest, and a scattering of animal ornaments. Chickens & Carnations Placemats (£35 for set of four) and matching Chicken



Easter Egg Hanging Decorations in wood, set of six, £18; Glitter Rabbits Decorations, Assorted, pack of two, £4; Foam Bird Easter Decorations, Assorted, £5 each, Felt Hanging Bunny Rabbit, £2.50; Easter Hanging Egg Decoration, Gold Stripe, £3.50; John Lewis.



Chicken Shaped Serving Jug, Gisela Graham London, £6, The Contemporary Home.

Coasters (£15 for set of four), from Thornback & Peel, would make a lovely addition.

Lay an egg-cellently elegant table

For a sophisticated setting at the Easter dining table, move away from pastels and cuteness and focus instead on a collection

of beautiful eggs framed in a garland of seasonal flowers.

Enhance the effect by tying a hanging egg decoration to the back of each chair with a name label attached, and add a couple of other tiny eggs beside the place mats, or in a bowl, for each guest.

£13 million plan for schools is set to progress

A £13 MILLION project to develop two new super schools will go ahead despite a building in the project being listed.

As part of plans to restructure schools in Welshpool, through Welsh Government funding, Powys County Council has proposed building a Welsh speaking school at the site of Ysgol Maesdyre and an English speaking site near the high school.

However, the plans were thrown into serious doubt in December when an unknown person applied to Cadw, which looks after historical buildings in Wales, to put listed building status on a building at Maesdyre, which is part of the new school.

After months of deliberations and waiting, a decision has been made to make the building subject to listed building status.

The local authority has been working with Cadw to find a solution, and it has been agreed that revised plans will focus on having a new school building towards the back of the listed building, and then restoring the main building. Welshpool County Councillor Graham Breeze said: "This is the best possible resolution. Powys County Council officers have been working closely with Cadw ever since the application for listing was made and we now have a very exciting design on the table which sees the listed part of the school maintained within the framework of the new school."

Plea to store over derelict development

A SUPERMARKET has been challenged to "get its game together" and act now over derelict development land in Oswestry.

The Smithfield site on Shrewsbury Road was previously earmarked for a Morrisons supermarket.

A cinema, Frankie and Benny's restaurant and McDonald's were also planned as part of a £45 million project. But the development collapsed when various companies pulled out in 2015.

In October Morrisons insisted the land, which has sat overgrown and disused, was still part of its plans. Oswestry Town Council has continued to press Morrisons bosses for answers, but to no avail.

This week Shropshire County Councillor Paul Milner declared: "The time for talking is over."

He said the supermarket, which purchased the lease on the land for £4 million, owes it to the people of Oswestry to act swiftly.

He said: "This is simply not fair on the people of Oswestry, they need answers and need to know what is going on."

"It has been almost four years now, and Morrisons need to get their game together and act."

"I feel very strongly about this, it has been an eyesore and the first thing people see when they come into the town, and something needs to be done as soon as possible. There needs to be clarity on this."

Morrisons was not available for comment.

Housing proposal for village fails

PLANS for 19 homes in Llandriniog have been thrown out by planning chiefs.

Powys County Council's planning committee discussed an application to build the homes on land at Severnside Rhos Common.

The application was called in by local councillor Graham Brown and Llandriniog Community Council, which listed a number of reasons for the development to be rejected.

The community council discussed the application last year and said it would object because it is outside the settlement boundary.

Also in the submissions, the council said Llanllinian Patient Participation Group was extremely concerned that the current medical infrastructure in the area will not be able to cope with the level of development.

Applications have been passed for a 49-home development in Four Crosses in recent months.

Despite the council's concerns, planning officers had recommended the application for approval, but was rejected by councillors.

Bad weather sees caravan dealership pulling out all the stops to ensure deliveries are made

Report by Jonny Drury

THE recent snow has left an award-winning caravan dealership working around the clock to clear a backlog and deliver holiday homes to Mid Wales and the Heart of England parks in time for Easter.

Due to the wet winter, most parks have been delaying deliveries of new caravan holiday homes and luxury lodges until the weather improves and the ground begins to dry.

But the delay has caused a huge backlog and staff at Salop Leisure, which has bases in Shrewsbury, Machynlleth and Stourport-on-Severn, are now pulling out all the stops to ensure the owners enjoy Easter in their new homes.

The company's sales of new and pre-owned caravan holiday homes, lodges, touring car-

avans and motorhomes are 12 per cent up on this time last year. That has resulted in workshop and valeting teams having to work lots of overtime to keep up with demand.

"I have never experienced such a busy March with people wanting to collect their new touring caravans and motorhomes ready for the Easter holiday," said Tony Bywater, Salop Leisure's chairman.

"Due to the strong demand for static caravan holiday homes, we are struggling to find enough transport to deliver them to parks in time for Easter. The weather has caused a massive backlog and we are now racing against the

clock to make the deliveries. Our priority is to ensure that our customers get their caravans for Easter.

"Transporting caravans is a very specialist job and we must thank our contractors Vyrnwy Caravans in Llansantffraid, for the magnificent effort they have made to help us."

Tina Roberts, Vyrnwy Caravans' transport manager, said the company has lost between four and five days due to bad weather and it delivers between eight and 12 caravans daily.

"Easter is the busiest time of time in the delivery calendar," she said. "The fact that Easter is early this year, coupled with weather problems, has had a knock-on effect."

Vyrnwy Caravans is a business based on excellent service and honesty and we always do

as much as we can for our customers, but it is a specialised job that cannot be rushed."

The company has a fleet of six lorries that collects caravans from the manufacturers in Hull daily and delivers to customers across Mid and North Wales and through to the Heart of England.

Salop Leisure's touring sales associate director Justin Edwards said 2018 had continued where last year had ended, with sales of touring caravans and motorhomes racing ahead.

Against a background of more expensive foreign holidays due to the devalued pound and long airport delays caused by security checks, he has noticed an increasing trend of British people opting to 'staycation' and invest in a touring caravan, motorhome or campervan.

Maternity unit changes will 'give confidence' to parents

Report by Lucy Todman

CHANGES to maternity services in Shropshire will give expectant mothers more confidence in the system, an expert has said.

Consultant obstetrician Adam Gornall said plans for births to take place in either Shrewsbury, Telford, or in the home make medical sense.

The plan also includes five Midwife Led Unit (MLU) hubs offering antenatal care and support to women during and after their pregnancies.

Campaigners have argued that the closure of birthing services at the units, based in Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow, would cause untold anxiety to women due to deliver their babies.

But Mr Gornall told a meeting of councillors that the new system would serve pregnant women better.

Care

He added that, at present, if a woman has her baby in a rural MLU she cannot expect any further level of care, above that of a midwife, than if she had "given birth in a supermarket".

At a meeting held in Shrewsbury, Dr Jessica Sokolov, clinical lead of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, brought members of the Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council's joint health overview and scrutiny committee up to speed with the current state of play of the proposed radical shake-up of antenatal, birth and postnatal care.

Joined by Fiona Ellis, programme manager for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin local maternity system, Adam Gornall, clinical director from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust (Sath) and Sarah Jamieson, head of midwifery at Sath, Dr Sokolov told members of the committee that a model for the implementation of the changes had now been developed.

Members of the committee queried whether the new hubs would be opened for "at least 12 hours a day" to which Ms Ellis replied that five maternity hubs were sustainable. "We need services that women and staff can trust," she added.

Staff morale was low, said Ms Jamieson, and sickness had increased since the start of the year. But eight new midwives were being employed and poor morale was being addressed.

The model will now be approved to progress to consultation following completion of the NHS England Assurance process.

Hundreds take part in annual fundraising walk



Oswestry fundraiser Olive Morris on her 50th Derwen Walk with students from the college at the start of the walking challenge

HUNDREDS of people joined in the 51st annual Derwen College sponsored walk on Sunday, raising thousands of pounds to help fund a hydrotherapy pool for students.

Students, parents and staff joined members of the local community for the walk that started and finished at the college for people with learning disabilities in Gobowen.

They completed a 10 kilometre or six kilometre route around Gobowen and the surrounding countryside and finished off with a well-deserved cup of home-made vegetable soup and fresh bread back at the college.

Olive Morris, 74, completed her 50th walk for the college, raising more than £400.

The family of student Carter Gough raised £2,500 through support from friends and family.

The family were also given an extra surprise when Carter's aunty and cousin greeted them as secret marshals towards the end of the 10 kilometre route. Jo-Anne Grove and her son Oliver were taken to the marshal points once the walk had started so that they could surprise Carter. As well as the longer routes, walkers also had the option of a one kilometre

challenge around Derwen College's Woodland Walk. Helen Edwards, projects and partnerships co-ordinator at the college, said: "It was such a lovely day with a lot of support from local people as well as college students and their families. We are very grateful to everyone who came along and raised large amounts of money through sponsorship. I hope there weren't too many blisters at the end of the day. Special thanks to Olive Morris for walking her 50th sponsored walk with us and for single-handedly raising thousands of pounds over the past five decades."

600-homes bid is recommended for the go-ahead

A SCHEME for up to 600 new homes on the edge of Oswestry has been recommended for approval.

The recommendation comes despite fears that roads won't be able to cope with the amount of traffic the development will generate.

The land on the eastern edge of Oswestry, next to the town's bypass, is designated as a "sustainable urban extension".

Concerns from Highways England over the effect the extra housing will have on the A5/

A483 roads had put the plans on hold. But earlier this year the government announced a £9.3 million grant to allow two roundabouts on the bypass to be built and a new one to be constructed on the Shrewsbury Road, overcoming the problems.

In a report to Shropshire Council's north planning committee, which meets on Tuesday next week, planning officer Philip Mullineux said the J Ross development would include 60 affordable dwellings.

It would also provide open space, a new link

road between Middleton Road and Shrewsbury Road and pedestrian and cycleway provision.

Mr Mullineux said there would be a new roundabout, which will replace the current priority T-junction arrangement at Shrewsbury Road/Maes-Y-Clawdd industrial estate.

"A secondary access point to the site will be provided to the north via a continuation of Middleton Road, and this route will be suitably traffic-calmed to prevent 'rat running,'" he said. Oswestry would benefit from approximately £1.8m of community infrastructure funding

which the council will need to ring-fence for primary and secondary school provision, play facilities and additional highway infrastructure associated with the strategic road network.

The application has led to worries about how the local infrastructure will cope. Oswestry Rural Parish Council has expressed worries about the effect the development will have on services. The town council supports the development in principle but has called for assurances over the capacity of the existing infrastructure.

Powys is top of the list for council areas which require repairs to roads network

ALMOST 20 per cent of roads in Mid Wales are in a poor condition, with Powys at the top of the list for needing repairs to potholes, bumps and cracks.

A six-year survey of roads across Wales from the Data Unit Wales government organisation shows that the region has twice the national average of poor road conditions.

Powys County Council, which is responsible for all but the trunk roads in the region, says that unlike education and social services, road repairs are not a statutory requirement.

The data unit says that about 10 per cent of Wales's roads, covering 1,932 miles, are in a poor condition with potholes, bumps and surface cracks.

Powys scored an average of 19.6 per cent of

Report by Sue Austin

poor roads over six years, the worst figures, with Wrexham third worst with 14.2 per cent.

The best county was Flint in north Wales, with only five per cent of poor roads.

Powys has more than 5,500 kilometres, or 3,400 miles of non-trunk roads.

County council cabinet member for highways Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick said: "Powys has by far the largest road network in Wales."

"Maintaining the network, particularly at a time of severe financial pressure, is very challenging and we are aware of a considerable backlog."

"The council is investing more than £15m

over the next two years on the road network, although there is a great deal more to do."

Meanwhile, damage caused by potholes has cost drivers in the West Midlands more than £100 million this past year, new figures show.

Only drivers in London and the south west had to fork out more, with the recent cold weather making the problem worse.

The capital was hardest hit with a damage cost of about £170m while drivers in Wales had to pay about £25m, the lowest out of all 11 UK regions studied.

A UK-wide study led by vehicle repair company Kwik Fit found that during the last year, potholes had caused damage to vehicles costing a total of £915m to repair across the nation.

The figure was an increase of 34 per cent, up

from £684m two years ago. Communications director at Kwik Fit Roger Griggs said the poor condition of the roads was hitting motorists' wallets ever harder.

He said: "Unfortunately, experience of past years has shown us that the recent cold weather will only make the problem worse and we are likely to see even more drivers suffering serious damage from impacts with potholes."

"It's important to note that while sometimes a pothole will cause a blowout to a tyre, in many cases the damage is not immediately obvious."

"Often a pothole can cause a slow puncture, bulge on the inside tyre wall or hairline crack in the wheel rim, which only becomes evident days after the impact."

'£40m needed²⁹ to get routes back in shape'

RESTORING Powys's roads back to their 2010 condition would cost the local authority £40 million, it has been claimed.

After the county was revealed as having the worst roads in Wales, Powys County Council has admitted that conditions have deteriorated so much in the past eight years that it would take tens of millions to return roads to their previous state.

With financial pressures continuing to mount, cabinet member for highways, Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick, has admitted it is becoming more challenging that ever to keep the county's roads in check. He said: "Powys has by far the largest road network in Wales, larger even than a small European country like Luxembourg at 4,500km in length and that does not include the trunk roads which add on another 500kms. Trunk roads are of course paid for and maintained by the Welsh Government." Councillor Fitzpatrick said that the costs of providing social care were having a knock-on effect on other departments. He said: "Maintaining the network, particularly at a time of severe financial pressure, has been extremely challenging in recent years as councils in the UK concentrate more and more on social care. Indeed, to bring our roads in Powys back to the standard of 2010 it would now cost us £40m, which causes me grave concern."

Alert raised over fake calls from HMRC

SCAMMERS pretending to be from the HMRC are targeting vulnerable and elderly people in Mid Wales.

Dyfed-Powys Police have received several calls from people reporting scam calls and messages that were left with them.

Five calls were logged in the Aberystwyth area in a three-hour period.

Callers have been ringing people purporting to be from the HMRC and threatening high legal fees if calls are not returned to a number beginning with 28.

The force have warned residents to be alert. A Dyfed-Powys Police spokeswoman said: "We have received several calls reporting scam calls and messages left with elderly and vulnerable people."

"Five calls have been logged in the Aberystwyth area, but people outside this area might also be targeted."

Callers are purporting to be from HMRC, and threatening high legal fees if calls are not returned to a number beginning with 28.

"We would urge people not to reply to these messages, or to hang up immediately if you are on the line. Reports of any further calls can be made to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040, or by calling Dyfed-Powys Police on 101."

Commissioner in saint's day call

A POLICE boss has waded into the debate over whether Wales should get a bank holiday on St David's Day.

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn is urging Prime Minister Theresa May to give Wales new powers to make the day honouring the country's patron saint a public holiday.

He said it was only right people of Wales should be allowed to celebrate the national day properly.

That would enable the Welsh Government to follow the precedent set in Scotland in 2006 when the Scottish Parliament designated November 30, St Andrew's Day, as a national holiday. In Scotland though banks are not required to close and it is up to employers to decide whether to give staff the day off.

If November 30 falls on a weekend, the next Monday is a holiday instead.

Mr Llywelyn said: "The four commissioners and the four chief constables, as employers of tens of thousands of people in Wales, should lobby the Assembly for this change to be introduced. I believe there is a great deal of support for the idea of creating a new official holiday to celebrate our patron saint's day. It is not a great legislative issue and there is no real barrier to creating a new holiday in Wales."

Mixed response to idea of garden waste collection fee

Report by Jonny Drury

A POTENTIAL £40 annual charge to have garden waste bins emptied has been met with a mixed response by Oswestry residents.

The idea for the annual garden waste charge was brought up at the latest Shropshire Council meeting and it could see the authority collect as much as £1.5 million.

Council leader Peter Nutting has said the council will look into the move next year, however Porthill councillor Julian Dean, believes it will deter people from gardening.

People in Oswestry responded with mixed views to the suggestion.

Rita Mathias, from Treflach, near Oswestry, gets rid of her own garden waste, but she believes the £40 charge is too expensive. She said: "We do our own because we have a compost bin in our garden."

"However the rates do seem high enough. If people have the room they can do it themselves with a compost bin. Although I do think that £40 seems quite a lot for the service."

Brian Sutton from West Felton said he would have no problem in paying the charge. He said: "We have moved to a new house, and fill the garden waste bin up about every two weeks, but I don't think I would have a problem with the charge."

"It comes to about £1 a week, so I don't think I would have a problem."

Garden waste is currently collected from bins on kerbsides across the borough every fortnight, along with recyclable glass, cans, plastic, paper and cardboard.

Peter Vagg, who lives in Nesscliffe, said the charge would not really affect him, however he said he would not be against paying it. He added: "I think it would be quite a good thing, I would be happy to pay it, I can't see a problem."

"It only equates to about 80p a week, so it isn't going to break the bank."

Richard Attfield, from Morda, said the charge seemed fair.

He said: "I usually fill the bin up more in the summer time, but I wouldn't be against the tax. If it worked out about £10 a month then maybe I would be against it, but it comes to about £3 a month so I can't see a problem." However, Bill Kerswell from Church Stretton said he believed people would find ways to avoid the charge.

He said: "People won't pay the charge, they will refuse, and they will just burn it on fires like they used to because it's easier."

Acclaimed string quartet to return to festival



This year's Llanfyllin Music Festival in the summer will once again host performances from the acclaimed Allegri String Quartet

THE acclaimed Allegri String Quartet will return to Llanfyllin Music Festival this summer.

The quartet will play a mix of familiar and new works; not necessarily from contemporary composers, but pieces by well-known names that may not have been played at Llanfyllin previously.

Margaret Clemmett, festival chairman, said: "I am especially pleased that the Allegri will be playing the Dvorak American Quartet, as we have had very little from Dvorak's repertoire over recent years."

"I'm delighted too that we are having an 'English' concert: Purcell and Elgar are two of my favourite composers – and, I hope, of many other people too."

Concerts will be on the middle two weekends of July, in St Myllin's Church, Llanfyllin. On July 13 Wolf's Italian Serenade, Debussy's String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10 and Dvorak's String Quartet No.12 in F major "American" will be performed. Purcell's Chacony in G minor, Britten's String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 25 and Elgar's String

Quartet in E minor, Op. 83 will be performed on July 15. On July 20 Schubert's String Trio D581, Mozart's String Quartet in A major, K. 464, "Drum" and Beethoven's String Quartet No. 12 in E flat major, Op. 127 will be performed. Bach's Fugue from The Art of fugue, Mozart's String Quintet No. 4 in G minor, K. 516 and Brahms's String Quintet No. 1 in F major, Op. 88 will be performed on July 22.

Early bird tickets, available until May 15, are £15. Visit llanfyllinfestival.org.uk for details.

Inspectors flag up police custody suite concerns

STAFFING issues have been highlighted as a cause for concern at custody suites across the Dyfed-Powys Police force region according to a new report.

A report following a joint criminal justice inspection of seven suites in November 2017, found that mixed progress had been made by the force to improve custody.

Inspectors found that management had been strengthened since the last visit four years ago, and there is a strong culture of providing safe custody.

However staffing problems was an issue, with a heavy reliance on front line officers to manage busy custody periods.

Peter Clarke, HM Chief Inspector Prisons, and HM Inspector of Constabulary, Dru Sharpling, said: "Overall we found that progress then to improve custody services was mixed.

Management of the service had been strengthened and the good interactions with detainees maintained. However, concerns remained about staffing, with continued reliance

on frontline police officers to deliver custody services."

Within the report, it was stated that there is a reliance on using frontline officers trained in custody to manage busy periods, with little monitoring of the frequency of this or assessment of whether custody services were delivered in the most effective and efficient way.

The report said: "Our observations and case audits indicated that staffing levels were not always adequate to meet demand or to ensure safe detention of all detainees."

"For example, checks on detainees did not always reflect the observation levels set, as detention escort officers were 'too busy'."

However inspectors found positive features, such as a good understanding of the vulnerability of detainees, and a strong approach to children in custody. The report noted: "There was a very strong focus on preventing children being criminalised and avoiding taking them into custody. It was evident that officers' primary concern was to determine why a child had offended and identify safeguarding issues."

**Troy: Fall of a City**

9.10pm
King Priam takes his life into his hands to visit the Greek camp and Achilles. An agreement is reached, but the Greeks are furious - will the truce hold? Starring David Threlfall and David Gyasi.

**Easter from King's**

6..15pm
Music and Gospel readings for Holy Week and Easter at the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, featuring performances by the King's College Choir, directed by Stephen Cleobury.

**The Voice UK**

8.30pm
Emma Willis hosts the live semi-final of the singing contest, as the eight remaining contestants compete to impress the public and win one of the four places in next week's show.

**Britain at Low Tide**

8pm
In Fife, Tori Herridge explores a wreck close to the scene of one of Britain's worst railway disasters, and assesses the role it played in the rescue operation. Last in the series.

**Inside Windsor Castle**

8pm
A look back at the series of events that shaped the monarchy between 1936 and 1952, using dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary archive of film.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** Host Matt Tebbutt is joined by chefs Tommy Banks and Shivi Ramoutar, and special guest Lisa Stansfield. Drinks expert Olly Smith picks the wines to go with the studio dishes.
- 11.30 Classic Mary Berry.** Recipes inspired by the great outdoors. (R)
- 12.00 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines and look ahead to forthcoming fixtures, as the Premier League and Championship return following a two-week international break.
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15 Bargain Hunt.** From Dorking in Surrey. (R)
- 2.00 MasterChef.** The cooks must each prepare a favourite dish. (R)
- 2.30 MasterChef.** The remaining eight contestants create their dishes. (R)
- 3.00 FILM: Shrek Forever After (2010).** A magical trickster leaves the grumpy ogre stuck in an alternate world where no one knows who he is. Animated comedy, with the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz.
- 4.25 Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
- 5.15 A Question of Sport.** Light-hearted quiz, hosted by Sue Barker. (R)
- 5.45 Doodlebugs.** Sketch show in which inanimate objects talk.
- 6.00 Ready or Not.** New series. Comedy game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public who face surprise challenges while going about their daily lives. Paddy McGuinness provides the commentary.
- 6.30 BBC News.**
- 6.40 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.45 Pointless Celebrities.** A World Champions edition of the quiz, featuring Steve Davis, Sarah Ayton, Trina Gulliver, Eric Bristow, Kriss Akabusi, John Regis, Steve Collins and Jayne Torvill.
- 7.35 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
- 8.20 Casualty.** Glen and Robyn are both rushed to the ED, where he finally tells her the truth about his seizures. Bea grows concerned that Dylan's alcoholism may be affecting his judgement.
- 9.10 Troy: Fall of a City.** King Priam takes his life into his hands to visit the Greek camp and Achilles, while Xanthius' arrest puts pressure on Helen, whose relationship with Paris becomes strained.
- 10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park.
- 12.00 FILM: Forget Me Not (2011).** A musician comes to the aid of a barmaid and they start to fall in love as they go on a journey around London. Romantic drama, starring Tobias Menzies and Genevieve O'Reilly.
- 1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.10 The Wonder of Animals.** The anatomy and physiology of the elephant. (R)
- 6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.** Naomi Wilkinson looks for sharks. (R)
- 7.10 The Pets Factor.** James Greenwood faces surgery on a water-loving moggy. **The Denegeers.** The team builds a special den for an 11-year-old aspiring journalist.
- 8.00 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds.** Dick and Dom learn more about the fast-flowing world of renewable energy.
- 8.30 Beyond Bionic.** Andy Torbet takes on the world's most heat-resistant animal.
- 9.00 Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final heat, with reigning champion Apollo taking on seven rival fighting machines through two group battles and a mini-league. (R)
- 10.00 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me.** Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan encounters African elephants in the wild. (R)
- 11.00 Six Puppies and Us.** Part two of two. The owners face further challenges when their dogs reach adolescence. (R)
- 12.00 The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives.** Janet uses a night-vision camera and fluorescent dust to track down mice. (R)
- 1.00 FILM: Cromwell (1970).** The rise to power of the Puritan leader during the Civil War years, and his subsequent role as the country's Lord Protector. Historical drama, with Richard Harris and Alec Guinness.
- 3.15 Canterbury Cathedral.** The treasurer applies for a £12million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. (R)
- 4.15 The Secret Helpers.** A man whose family life is in crisis seeks advice from the Secret Helpers. (R)
- 5.15 Big Cats About the House.** Maya the jaguar begins to explore the house but her health is still in question. (R)
- 6.15 Easter from King's.** Music and Gospel readings for Holy Week and Easter at the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, featuring performances by the King's College Choir, directed by Stephen Cleobury.
- 7.30 Dad's Army.** Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the aristocracy – much to Mainwaring's annoyance. (R)
- 8.00 Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs.** David Attenborough reveals the secrets of birds' eggs from creation to hatching, exploring how they are made, the reasons behind their shape and their intrinsic purpose.
- 9.00 Hamlet.** The Almeida Theatre's 2017 production of Shakespeare's play, starring Andrew Scott, and recorded as-live in its West End transfer on the stage of London's Harold Pinter Theatre.
- 12.15 Civilisations.** Simon Schama examines how the role of artists from the different traditions of east and west developed in the years following the Renaissance. (R)
- 1.15 FILM: Thérèse Desqueyroux (2012).** An outspoken woman feels stifled in an unhappy marriage in 1920s France, and is driven to consider poisoning her husband. Drama, with Audrey Tautou and Gilles Lellouche.
- 3.00 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

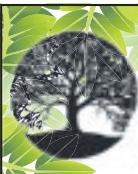
- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Star Wars Freemarker Adventures**
- 7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)**
- 8.10 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show.** Bagel and Percy shrink themselves inside Becky. (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go.** The GDF begin testing experimental rescue machines.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishart. (R)**
- 9.25 ITV News.**
- 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** With guests Naughty Boy and Lenny Carr-Roberts.
- 11.25 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Four diners try to guess the identity of mystery host Lesley Garrett. (R)
- 12.25 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.30 The Harbour.** A three-day triathlon festival draws huge crowds to Tenby.
- 1.00 Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury.** The Seven Sisters, Beachy Head and Birling Gap. (R)
- 1.30 Britain's Brightest Family.** Two families compete in the third round of the quarter-finals. (R)
- 2.00 Celebrity Catchphrase.** With Jonathan Ross, Tess Daly and Linda Robson. (R)
- 3.00 Tenable.** Quiz, hosted by Warwick Davis. (R)
- 4.00 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 5.00 The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 6.00 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.15 ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.
- 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Stephen Merchant is on duty as the Star Guest Announcer and Paloma Faith takes to the stage in the End of the Show Show. Presented by Declan Donnelly.
- 8.30 The Voice UK.** Emma Willis hosts the live semi-final of the singing contest, as the eight remaining contestants compete to impress the public and win one of the four places in next week's show.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.15 FILM: The Bourne Identity (2002).** An amnesiac man pulled from the sea by the crew of a fishing boat is targeted by assassins as he tries to discover who he is. Thriller, starring Matt Damon and Franka Potente.
- 12.20 Goodwood Members Meeting Highlights.** Highlights of the 76th Members Meeting.
- 1.10 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Babushka.** Game show, hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.10 Marathon: Maraton del Meridiano.** Action from the Marathon of the Meridian Naviera Armas.
- 6.40 Triathlon: Challenge Wanaka.** Highlights from New Zealand's South Island.
- 7.05 The King of Queens.** Carrie throws a birthday party. (R)
- 7.30 The King of Queens.** Doug and Deacon go gambling. (R)
- 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert jets off to Las Vegas. (R)
- 8.20 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray starts sharing the children's bathroom. (R)
- 8.50 Frasier.** Martin beats Frasier at chess. (R)
- 9.20 Frasier.** The Crane brothers clash. (R)
- 9.55 Frasier.** A policewoman steals Frasier's heart. (R)
- 10.25 The Big Bang Theory.** Penny begins dating comic-book shopkeeper Stuart. (R)
- 10.55 The Big Bang Theory.** Penny makes a surprising revelation. (R)
- 11.20 The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Penny discuss their future together. (R)
- 11.50 The Simpsons.** Bart discovers a passion for American history. (R)
- 12.20 The Simpsons.** Homer gets a new assistant. (R)
- 12.50 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes an author of children's books. (R)
- 1.20 Come Dine with Me.** Four contestants from Preston. (R)
- 2.20 Coast vs Country.** A couple in search of a new life in either Dorset or Hampshire. (R)
- 3.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** A woman who dreams of owning a family holiday home in Barbados. (R)
- 4.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** A Jersey couple looking for a home in Fuerteventura. (R)
- 5.30 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Documentary about the animals of Chester Zoo. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** The actress travels from Newcastle to Edinburgh by train, stopping off at the coastal town of Alnmouth and the world's biggest gannet colony, and meeting a lobster breeder. (R)
- 8.00 Britain at Low Tide.** In Fife, Tori Herridge explores a wreck close to the scene of one of Britain's worst railway disasters, and assesses the role it played in the rescue operation. Last in the series.
- 9.00 FILM: Taken 3 (2014).** Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills fights to clear his own name after being framed for his ex-wife's murder. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson and Forest Whitaker.
- 11.15 FILM: AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004).** Scientists are caught up in a battle between two races of deadly extraterrestrial creatures in a mysterious pyramid. Sci-fi thriller, starring Sanaa Lathan and Lance Henriksen.
- 1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R)
- 1.45 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Leah prepares to make an announcement at Amy's memorial. (R)
- 3.55 The Question Jury. (R)**
- 4.50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R)**
- 5.45 Streetmate. (R)**

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wisper 6.20 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.40 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Paw Patrol 8.40 Nella the Princess Knight 8.55 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20 Shimmy and Shine 9.40 Digby Dragon 9.55 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig**
- 10.10 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939).** Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable.
- 2.30 FILM: Oklahoma! (1955).** Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Western, with Gordon MacRae.
- 4.00 4.05 5.15**
- 6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away: Final Demand.** Documentary giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of people who owe money, their creditors and those who collect the payments.
- 7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald.** The singer returns to Naples, from where takes a ferry to Capri hoping to fulfil an ambition she has had all her life – to follow in the footsteps of entertainer Gracie Fields. (R)
- 8.00 Inside Windsor Castle.** A look back at the series of events that shaped the monarchy between 1936 and 1952, using dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary archive of film. (R)
- 8.55 9.00**
- 10.30 20 Moments That Rocked the 80s.** Cher, Lungi presents a countdown of memorable moments, including royal weddings, political scandals, sporting triumphs and the rise to fame of iconic entertainers. (R)
- 12.05 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel.** Documentary following life at the hotel through the eyes of its employees. Housekeeping staff face a crisis when the boiler breaks and the laundry grinds to a halt. (R)
- 4.00**
- 4.45**
- 5.10**
- The X-Files.** Mulder and Scully rush to find an on-the-run William, while the Cigarette Smoking Man pushes forward with his ultimate plan. Last in the series. (R)
- House Doctor.** Ann Maurice helps a Staffordshire couple sell their house in Newcastle-under-Lyme by clearing clutter and creating more space. (R)
- Great Artists.** The life of El Greco, one of the most distinctive painters of the 16th century, whose work paved the way for the Baroque and provided the inspiration for 20th-century expressionism. (R)



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Songs of Praise

5pm
Aled Jones visits Bangor Cathedral and recalls his time as a member of the cathedral choir, while Claire McCollum marks the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.



Top Gear

8pm
Matt LeBlanc, Chris Harris and Rory Reid test drive the latest SUVs through the medium of horse trialling, and are joined in the studio by Jason Manford.



The Good Karma Hospital

9pm
Gabriel joins Ruby on an outreach programme to a tea plantation, but discovers that she has not been completely honest about her reasons for wanting to go there.



Escape to the Chateau

8pm
Dick and Angel prepare for winter and attend a food festival in Rouen, where they hope to find inspiration over what to do with their fresh fruit and vegetables. Last in the series.



Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away

8pm
The agents chase up a £3,000 deposit owed by a landlord to his tenant, and officers try to recover £25,000 from a nightclub owner for unpaid solicitor fees.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.
- 7.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Manchester United v Swansea City at Old Trafford. (R)
- 9.00 Painting the Holy Land. Lachlan Goudie explores the role of Mary in the Bible.
- 10.00 Easter Day From Sheffield Cathedral. A traditional Sung Eucharist led by the Very Rev Peter Bradley.
- 11.00 Uriel Orbi. Live coverage of the Pope's Easter Sunday broadcast from Rome.
- 11.25 FILM: The Silent Child (2017). Oscar-winning short film, starring Maisie Sly.
- 11.45 Bargain Hunt. From the Westpoint antiques and collectors fair in Devon. (R)
- 12.25 BBC News; Weather.
- 12.40 FILM: Shaun the Sheep Movie (2015). The lovable lamb spends his day off in the big city trying to save the farmer. Animation, featuring the voice of Justin Fletcher.
- 2.00 MasterChef. The first group of contestants head to the Eneko restaurant in Covent Garden, London. (R)
- 3.00 MasterChef. The amateurs make lunch at London restaurant Sartoria. (R)
- 4.00 MasterChef. The nine cooks vie for three semi-final places. (R)
- 4.30 Escape to the Country. Searching for a home in rural Wiltshire. (R)
- 5.00 Songs of Praise. Aled Jones visits Bangor Cathedral.
- 5.35 BBC News.
- 5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.
- 6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. New series. Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present a third series of the art contest, which begins with 10 contestants getting a masterclass in still life in Glasgow.
- 7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker, Anita Rani and Joe Crowley explore West Yorkshire, meeting a beekeeper who came to the county as a refugee and discovering Emily Bronte's passion for wildlife. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00 The Generation Game. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins host the first of two special episodes reviving the classic game show in which teams of family members compete in bizarre challenges.
- 9.00 Ordeal by Innocence. New series. Three-part adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel. As the widower of a murdered heiress prepares to remarry, the identity of his wife's killer is called into question.
- 10.00 BBC News.
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, with highlights of Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge and Arsenal v Stoke City at the Emirates Stadium.
- 11.30 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
- 12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 12.10 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.20 Coast. Exploring the tidal ebb and flow of the seas surrounding Britain. (R)
- 6.50 Glorious Gardens from Above. Christine Walkden gets a bird's-eye view of gardens in Cornwall. (R)
- 7.35 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. The life cycle of the horticulturist's garden. (R)
- 8.05 Gardeners' World. Monty Don begins to mark out a brand new area at Longmeadow. (R)
- 8.35 Countryfile. Matt Baker reports on a conservation project in Shropshire. (R)
- 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.00 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. With guests Amanda Byram and Tom Kitchin. (R)
- 11.45 Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. The food writer helps a student whose mum cooks all his meals. (R)
- 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
- 1.00 Coast. Nick Crane joins sea fishermen who have constructed a remarkable ropeway. (R)
- 1.15 Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago. The celebrities near the end of their journey. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.15 Canterbury Cathedral. The Rev Clare Edwards travels to York for the vote on women bishops. (R)
- 3.15 RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin McGregor. The actor and his former pilot brother present a celebration of the RAF's centenary. (R)
- 4.45 FILM: War Horse (2011). First World War drama, starring Jeremy Irvine.
- 7.00 Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall. Part two of two. The naturalist braves the dangerous white waters of the Balem River's lower gorge and encounters a tribe that has had little contact with the outside world. (R)
- 8.00 Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc, Chris Harris and Rory Reid test drive the latest SUVs, and are joined in the studio by Jason Manford. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Conspiracy Files: Murder in Washington. The murder of political campaigner Seth Rich during the 2016 US presidential campaign, which has become the subject of rumours that he had released internal e-mails to WikiLeaks.
- 10.00 Mock the Week. Ed Gamble, Milton Jones, Miles Jupp, Nish Kumar and Felicity Ward join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
- 10.35 Top Gear: Extra Gear. The team try to solve Tokyo's transport problems, and are joined by racing drivers Enaam Ahmed and Chris Breen for a chat about the Monte Carlo Rally. Last in the series.
- 11.00 FILM: Selma (2014). In 1965, civil rights campaigner Dr Martin Luther King Jr plans a peaceful march across Alabama which will change history. Fact-based drama, starring David Oyelowo.
- 1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)
- 1.55 Sign Zone: Holby City. Ollie faces a hard truth. (R)
- 2.55 This Is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go
- 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R)
- 8.10 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. Bean decorates his room. (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Spy School. GoldFist swears revenge on an art critic.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. Fun for children. (R)
- 9.25 ITV News.
- 9.30 Love Your Garden. Alan Titchmarsh and the team head to Bolton. (R)
- 10.00 Countrywise. Ben Fogle and his dog go wild swimming in Dartmoor. (R)
- 10.30 The Voice UK. Emma Willis hosts the live semi-final. (R)
- 12.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Paloma Faith takes to the stage in the End of the Show Show. (R)
- 1.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
- 1.40 FILM: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971). Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder.
- 3.45 Catchphrase. Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
- 4.30 ITV News and Weather.
- 4.45 ITV News Central; Weather.
- 5.00 Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 6.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Fiona Bruce, Rick Edwards, Kate Humble and Joe Swash try to win thousands of pounds for charity by outwitting a trivia expert. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)
- 7.00 Change Your Tune. New series. Baz Ashmawy hosts the musical challenge in which some of the country's worst singers undergo weeks of training to improve their voices before performing live.
- 8.00 The Durrells. Larry and Louisa return to England, where Larry falls in with a group of Bohemian artists living in London, including writer Henry Miller. Back in Corfu, Gerry saves a donkey.
- 9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Gabriel joins Ruby on an outreach programme to a tea plantation, but discovers that she has not been completely honest about her reasons for wanting to go there.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
- 10.15 FILM: Sherlock Holmes (2009). The eccentric detective investigates a criminal who has seemingly returned from the dead to carry out a spate of murders. Action thriller, with Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law.
- 12.40 Marcella. Vince tells Marcella that his wife has been sleeping with DCI Williamson. (R)
- 1.30 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Take on the Twisters. Quiz show, presented by Julia Bradbury. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens. Doug reveals his benevolent side. (R)
- 6.40 The King of Queens. Doug gets involved in a dodgy scheme. (R)
- 7.05 The King of Queens. Doug is banned from a restaurant. (R)
- 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra and Ray befriend a new couple. (R)
- 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert becomes convinced he has found the perfect woman. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier. The radio station's new owner visits. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier. Roz dates a compulsive womaniser. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch. With guests Simona Brown, Kellie Shirley and Hugh Dennis.
- 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. With guests Chris O'Dowd and Dawn O'Porter. (R)
- 1.35 The Simpsons. Springfield gets a new telephone code. (R)
- 2.00 The Simpsons. With the voice of Drew Barrymore. (R)
- 2.30 The Simpsons. Lisa joins a group of eco-radicals. (R)
- 3.00 The Simpsons. Mr Burns hires Homer to play pranks. (R)
- 3.30 Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade. Short animated comedy, featuring the characters from the movie series. (R)
- 4.00 FILM: Dumbo (1941). Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Edward Brophy.
- 5.15 The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. Lee Mack, Griff Rhys Jones, Melanie Sykes and Joe Lycett take part. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.
- 7.00 Homes by the Med. Charlie Luxton visits the Spanish island of Mallorca, where he discovers an Arab bath house that is over 1,000 years old in Palma's old town. (R)
- 8.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel prepare for winter and attend a food festival in Rouen, where they hope to find inspiration over what to do with their fresh fruit and vegetables. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Homeland. Carrie makes a move, Wellington has a reckoning and Saul expands an operation.
- 10.05 FILM: The Green Mile (1999). A prison guard amazed by the healing power and gentle nature of a man on death row comes to doubt his guilt. Supernatural drama, starring Tom Hanks and Michael Clarke Duncan.
- 1.25 The Supervet. Professor Noel Fitzpatrick and his team fight to save the leg of a much-loved golden retriever, and a French bulldog with twisted elbows needs a wheelchair and some surgery. (R)
- 2.20 Coastal Walks with My Dog. The first of two programmes in which celebrities and their canine companions showcase Britain's coastal beauty spots, beginning with trips in North Devon, Pembrokeshire and Dorset. (R)
- 3.15 KOTV Boxing Weekly. Action from two bouts featuring Reece Bellotti and Philip Bowes.
- 3.40 The Question Jury. An opinionated new juror arrives. (R)
- 4.35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A school teacher building a classroom inside a salvaged plane. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Secret Life of Puppies 6.20 Moofy 6.25 Simon 6.35 Simon 6.40 Peppa Pig 6.45 Olly the Little White Van 6.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines 7.15 Paw Patrol 7.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 7.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.00 Shimmy and Shine 8.10 Digby Dragon 8.20 Peppa Pig 8.40 Peppa Pig 8.45 Thomas & Friends: Journey Beyond Sodor
- 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Mikey loses control of his mind. (R)
- 10.35 Police Interceptors. Damo and the fireteam tackle a supermarket gunman. (R)
- 11.40 Police Interceptors. Ben Sutcliffe takes presenter Rick Edwards through interceptor training. (R)
- 12.40 FILM: Joe Kidd (1972). Western, starring Clint Eastwood.
- 2.25 FILM: Space Cowboys (2000). Adventure, starring Clint Eastwood.
- 4.55 FILM: Stargate (1994). Sci-fi adventure, starring Kurt Russell.
- 5.55 News Update.
- 6.00 FILM: Stargate (1994). Concluded.
- 6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The officers try to recover £13,000 owed by a high-performance car dealer in Birmingham, and in Wolverhampton the agents chase nearly £2,000 owed to a car hire company. (R)
- 8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents chase up a £3,000 deposit owed by a landlord to his tenant, and officers try to recover £25,000 from a nightclub owner for unpaid solicitor fees. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.
- 9.00 FILM: Bruce Almighty (2003). God tires of a reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of real responsibility. Comedy, with Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Aniston.
- 10.00 5 News Update.
- 10.05 FILM: Bruce Almighty (2003). Concluded.
- 11.05 FILM: Just Go with It (2011). A plastic surgeon pretends to be going through a divorce and persuades his assistant to pose as his soon-to-be ex-wife. Romantic comedy, starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston.
- 1.15 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel. Housekeeping staff have their work cut out preparing for the Labour Party annual conference and the hotel plays host to a white-collar boxing event. (R)
- 4.00 The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant. The broadcaster examines how trains transformed the nation and shaped modern Britain, beginning by looking at the invention of the steam locomotive. (R)
- 4.45 House Doctor. Ann Maurice offers advice to a couple in Beckenham, Kent, whose 1930s-style house has been on the market for more than 14 months. (R)
- 5.10 Great Artists. The life and work of 17th-century artist Peter Paul Rubens. (R)
- 5.35 Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths



BRADLEY

Kathleen
(Boyle)

Of East Avenue, Donnington, Telford, formerly of St. Martins, Weston Rhyn, Wolverhampton and Madeley.

PRITCHARD

Bryan

Of Chaucer Close, Oswestry.

Passed away on March 2, 2018, in The Princess Royal Hospital, aged 73 years. Devoted Wife to Michael Bradley who passed away in 2009. Kate fought her ongoing illness with Multiple Sclerosis and will be sadly missed by her Daughter Louise Callaghan, Foster Daughter Anita Kenyon, Sister Carol Jones, Brothers Michael and John Boyle, Sisters and Brother in-law, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, Carers and Friends.

Passed away peacefully on March 15, 2018, aged 82 years. Beloved Husband of the late Rose, loving Father of Lesley and Alan. Father-in-law of Roy and Sandra and a much loved Grandad and Great-Grandad.

Funeral Service to be held at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham on Thursday, April 12, at 11am.

Family flowers only please but donations if desired, to Hope House Children's Hospice.

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YOUNG

Joseph Alfred

It is with regret that we announce the sad news of the passing of Joseph Alfred Young on March 7, 2018, aged 96 years.

Formerly of Oswestry.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 2pm.

No flowers by request.

Donations if wished to The Alzheimer's Society for which purpose a collection box will be made available at the Crematorium.

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Previous event organising experience an advantage but not essential.

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MOToring

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If you want to know just how reliable, hard-wearing and capable a machine the Toyota Hilux is, you can't do better than ask the people who drive them day-in, day-out. That's what makes Hilux's latest award, Professional Pick-Up and 4x4 magazine's Working Pick-Up of the Year, announced, all the more relevant and rewarding.

Unlike many other awards, these honours are determined by people who rely on their pick-ups and all-wheel drive machines every day for their business.

Judging

A more rigorous and practical judging panel would be hard to find, representing a wide range of professions and jobs including farming, fencing, plant hire, builders, road gritters, estate managers, agricultural suppliers and a professional hunter.

Hilux had to prove its mettle in a series of driving scenarios, including driving off-road and towing, in a test programme at the Carlton Towers Estate in Yorkshire.

Speaking for the team of 12 judges, Liam Campbell, Professional Pick-Up and 4x4 founder and editor, said: "The Hilux has long been regarded as the no nonsense workhorse, and this continues into the latest generation with its fantastic residual values, a



Hilux had to prove its mettle in a series of driving scenarios

3.5-tonne towing capacity and its highly regarded build quality and durability.

"However, it didn't just impress in terms of productivity and capabilities; the jury also made a note of its comfortable ride and handling on the road."

James Clark, Toyota press relations manager, said: "Hilux couldn't hope for a better commendation than to be

named the best in its class from the people whose livelihoods depend on a vehicle they can rely on to do the job, every time.

"With each new generation of Hilux we have made advances in performance, comfort and safety, but never at the cost of its fundamental abilities as a tough, robust machine that can tackle the toughest working conditions."

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In spite of its coupe-like character, the car is a four door, roomy saloon with plenty of room for adults in the rear

Italian style, substance, exclusivity and motorsport heritage turns heads

By John Griffiths

A sporty and stylish car bearing the legendary trident badge isn't exactly a common sight on Britain's roads – but mention the name Maserati in any company and there's recognition and admiration in faces around you.

But the marque famous for its racing prowess of yesteryear, with the likes of Fangio and Moss at the wheel, is out of the pits and on its way up the field in today's world of executive transport. The introduction of new models – including the century-old firm's first SUV, the Levante – is powering Maserati's quest for sales success.

Its sporting heritage, Italian style, new technology and premium quality make it attractive to the discerning driver who wants to stand out in the executive car park.

Ownership isn't cheap – the entry level Ghibli starts at £51,165 – and of course it comes with nothing less than a 3.0 litre V6 engine to endow it with the effortless power and grace with which the name is associated.

Romantic

In spite of its coupe-like character, the Ghibli (named after a hot desert wind) is in fact a four door, roomy saloon with plenty of room for adults in the back seats. The cabin is sporty but sumptuous – rich leather upholstery and trim with piano black, carbon effect and stainless steel features which hint at its character.

The base level engine is a V6 diesel with 275ps of power and a hefty 600Nm of torque, which combined with an eight-speed ZF automatic transmission makes it extremely responsive, but so refined in normal cruising and around town. The test car was powered by a Ferrari-built twin turbo V6 of the same three litre capacity, with 350ps and 500Nm of torque – clearly no slouch.

Both are quick – 6.3 and 5.5 seconds to 62mph – but the diesel wins on fuel economy and emissions. The figures are 47.9mpg and 158g/km for the diesel, and 31.7 mpg and 307g/km for the petrol but pure finances are not the only considerations in owning a sports saloon. It's also a spiritual thing, and of course there remains uncertainty about how future legislation may affect diesel engines.

There are two other versions, the even more powerful S (430bhp) and an all-wheel drive model, the Q4.

The Ghibli is, basically a shorter



The cabin is sporty but sumptuous – rich leather upholstery and trim

version of the larger (and more expensive) Quattroporte, which has limousine-like proportions with rear seat passengers in particularly benefitting from generous extra legroom. The rear will take three adults, with a split/fold seatback system to allow you to carry larger items of luggage.

As such, the new 2018 Ghibli shares a range of technical and mechanical improvements with its big brother. This includes the Integrated Vehicle Control system, a type of advanced stability control developed by Bosch which actually prevents rather than simply correcting instability. Both cars also get electric power steering for the first time, providing sharp, coupe-like handling while improving the functionality of the various selectable driving mode systems. Lane keeping assist, traffic sign recognition and blind spot alert are optional extensions of the system.

The new Ghibli has also undergone restyling inside and out, which apart from aesthetics has improved the car's aerodynamics, helping to improve performance and economy. It also has a limited slip differential and shares its sophisticated suspension system with the Quattroporte.

I didn't have the best of days for testing a sporty saloon: heavy rain and standing water. But it did illustrate the stability, and the competence of the electronic assistance systems, in conditions far from ideal for a powerful, rear wheel drive machine. It was indeed confidence inspiring.

The Ghibli has several driver-selectable modes, including normal, manual, sport and bad weather,

actually on steering, throttle response and (in sport mode) speeding up the gear changes and allowing greater use of engine revs. Using normal mode in restricted areas for maximum comfort and economy, the switch to 'sport' on the open road is a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde moment as the Ghibli gets to show its true character.

The test car was also fitted with Maserati's 'Skyhook' suspension, allowing the driver to chose a firmer, more sporty setting when exploiting the car's dynamics. In 'normal' mode the damping is compliant, giving you a smooth and supple ride.

The Ghibli comes with a large colour touch screen in the centre console, controlling a wide range of functions including the premium audio, navigation and full connectivity systems. It helps reduce the number of buttons to those essential for the driving modes (plus climate control), allowing the driver to maintain focus on the road as well as creating a neater cabin. Adaptive cruise control, 'stop & go' system, forward collision warning with emergency braking, rear crossing traffic alert, plus parking sensors and camera are also part of the package.

The new Ghibli is a considerable move forward on its original namesake, launched some four years ago, and while it's the cheapest model is a worthy rival to the mid-range executive expresses from German and British rivals.

To Italian style there's added substance, a rich motorsport heritage and a degree of exclusivity which will guarantee you turning heads.

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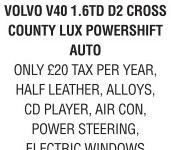
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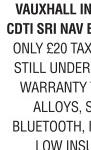
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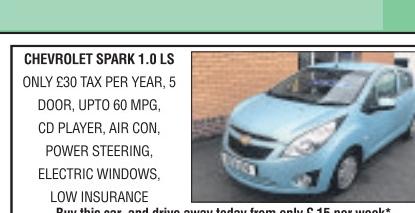
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Elain in the swim with gold at double



Elain Owen who swam to two gold medals in Cardiff

YOUNG swimmer Elain Owen made a splash when picking up two gold medals in the Tiger Bay Open Meet at the Cardiff's international pool.

The sole entrant from Welshpool Sharks Swim Club, the 12-year-old was up against swimmers from across Wales in what is always a very popular and competitive gala in the swimming calendar.

Competing in her first event, the 200m breaststroke, Elain swam a personal best time to win the gold medal on the Saturday.

Later that evening, she again set another personal best when wiping five seconds off her previous best for the 200m individual medley.

The following day, Elain again delivered another impressive swim with a third personal best, this time in the 100m breaststroke, which was good enough to win her a second gold medal of the gala.

"It's really tough competing at this level, and Elain coped brilliantly with the added pressure that comes with swimming in the international sized 50-metre pool in Cardiff," said Sharks head coach Alan Webster.

"She certainly swam to her full potential and achieving personal best times in all three events is all you can ask."

"Elain can be very proud indeed of her performance, and winning two gold medals at this gala is a really impressive achievement."

Rovers edged out of Central Wales Cup

WATERLOO Rovers made Cymru Alliance side Caersws battle all the way before being edged out 1-0 in the quarter-final of the Central Wales Cup at Maesydre.

A strike from Jake Parr ended the Rovers' hopes of progressing, with the Bluebirds now facing either Llanidrod Wells or Builth Wells in the semi-final.

The other last four clash is between Llanfair United and Guildfield, with the latter needing penalties to see off a plucky Bow Street.

The tie finished goalless after extra time before the Guils progressed 4-3 in the shootout against the Spar Mid Wales League visitors.

Llanfair United were the first side through with a 2-1 home passage against Spar League rivals Knighton Town.

Although not at their best, Bishop's Castle boosted their title hopes in the Montgomeryshire League division one with a 3-0 home verdict against Llanfyllin Town. They are now top, two points clear of Guildfield reserves.

Elsewhere, Maesyndir ran out 2-1 winners at Llanymynech who pulled one back when Nick Jones rounded the keeper.

The visitors were two goals up at half time and also saw a late penalty missed.

Draper nets No 100 in TNS' title party

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints celebrated a seventh consecutive JD Welsh Premier crown with a stroll in the sunshine as they swept aside Cefn Druids 5-1 at Park Hall.

Already confirmed champions before the game, the Saints were in party mood as Greg Draper led the way with four of the goals - and passed the century mark for the club on the way.

Tom Holland also found the net with a terrific 30-yarder - his first goal for the club - before Matty Owen's last minute free kick earned the Druids some consolation.

As the league leaders were presented with their 12th Welsh Premier trophy in all, it was the first for Scott Ruscoe and his assistant Steve Evans after taking over from Craig Harrison last summer.

Ruscoe, who has previously won 10 championships with TNS as a player, was delighted to claim the crown with four games to spare.

"It's a proud moment for me personally to win the league as a manager; it's a good feeling," he said.

"It was good seeing the players playing with a smile on their face today, playing with plenty of energy and creating lots of chances. This side is up there with the best since I've been here in terms of technical ability and fitness.

"We could be losing a couple in the summer, so we will be looking to bring in some new players to make us a better side and keep us moving forward."

He added: "It was good for Greg to get his 100 goals for the club. He had been on 99 for a while. It has been hanging over him, so hopefully he can now go on and win the league's Golden Boot."

Despite drawing 2-2 at home last month, the Druids never looked likely to spoil the Saints' celebrations in the return fixture.

The champions were always in charge after taking an eighth minute lead when Ryan Brobbel's pass deflected off Fisnik Hajdari into the path of the unmarked Draper who hooked the ball past keeper Michael Jones from 12 yards.

The Druids' had limited chances, although Arek Piskorski had one effort from outside the box saved low down by Paul Harrison who also dealt comfortably with Owen's long range effort.

Most of the action was coming at the other end, with Draper volleying well over from Ryan Pryce's cross, before Aeron Edwards' sweet strike from 20 yards drifted just wide of the right post on 19 minutes.

Pryce went close to doubling the lead on 24 minutes when his strike rattled the underside of the bar after the left back had found space in the box from Jon Routledge's pass.

The Saints continued to open up the Ancients defence with brisk movement, with Brobbel finding the net from close range on 28 minutes only



He shoots, he scores – TNS goal machine Greg Draper nets against Cefn Druids. ■ Picture: Brian Jones.

to see his effort ruled out for a tight offside call.

With the visitors increasingly penned back, Draper then lobbed tamely at keeper Jones, while Chris Marriot curled a free kick just over.

The Druids continued to be at full stretch, with Holland the next to try his luck as his shot flew inches over from the edge of the box.

But the midfielder was not to be denied four minutes before half time when drilling the ball inside the left post after being teed up 30 yards out.

Any slim hopes that the Druids may have had of retrieving the encounter after the break quickly vanished when Draper struck twice inside the first four minutes to complete his hat-trick.

The top scorer planted a looping header past Jones for his second of the game from Chris Marriott's left wing cross, and quickly wrapped up his treble when chipping home Jamie Mullan's assist from the right.

With the encounter over as a contest, the Saints may have lacked their earlier intensity, but continued to threaten with Routledge denied by Jones who also saved at the feet of substitute Kevin Kauber.

Druids offered little, although Matty Owen struck the post with a free kick from the right as they chased some consolation.

Brobbel's strike was then saved by the diving Jones

as TNS scented a fifth goal, and it arrived seven minutes from time when Mullan crossed low from the right byline and Draper nipped in for his fourth of the game. But the Druids had the last word when Owen scored a consolation in the last minute when curling a 20-yard free kick into the top left hand corner.

■ Newtown secured Welsh Premier safety when overcoming Llandudno 3-2 after twice trailing in their clash at Latham Park.

Jay Gibbs gave the Seasiders a fifth minute lead with his first of the game and, after Ryan Sears had levelled on 16 when heading in Luke Boundford's long throw, Gibbs notched his second midway through the half to restore the advantage.

But the Robins were not to be denied, with Ethan Jones levelling three minutes into the second period with his first goal for the club, before a Nick Rushton penalty settled the issue after Boundford had been upended in the box.

"We showed great endeavour, especially in that second half and we kept pushing and probing to get a leveller and then get a winner," said boss Chris Hughes.

The win secures Newtown's place in the league for another season, and Hughes has put it up there with some of the best achievements during his time at the club.

Sluggish first half is costly for Town

TEN-MAN FC Oswestry Town paid the price for a sluggish first half as they slipped to a 2-1 loss at home to Alsager Town in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

The hosts struggled to get into their stride before the break, and their chances faded once Sam Spridgeon was sent off in the 22nd minute for bringing down forward Jordan Cobley when through on goal.

They were already behind at that stage to a strike from Michael Lennon and trailed further 10 minutes into the second half through Taylor Attrill.

After that, Town perked up, with Jacob Farleigh pulling one back from the penalty spot 13 minutes from time to give his side hope, but that was as good as it got.

After the previous weekend's goalless draw against high flying Selsdon, it was a disappointing outcome with Town having lost four of their last six league outings, their other two drawn.

Having slipped to 15th in the table, they will be out to get back on the winning track at home to Abber Hulton United on Saturday (3pm).

Town's plans were disrupted even before kick off last week when Rob Shone injured himself in the warm-up, so Tom Rowlands - who had been named on the bench - was thrust into the starting line-up.

And it was Alsager who started the brighter, and were ahead on 19 minutes when Jordan Cobley found Josh Glover who crossed to Lennon who fired past keeper Louis Mackin. Three minutes later, the Oswestry side suffered another setback when Spridgeon was ruled to have pushed over Cobley who had latched onto Glover's through ball.

Ten minutes after the break, the Cheshire visitors had doubled their advantage when, despite claims for a foul on Rowlands, Cobley broke down the left before crossing for Attrill to fire home.

Town gave themselves hope when Gary Meredith was brought down in the box by Chris Gresham, with Farleigh converting.

TNS ladies denied after Brum battle

IT proved another frustrating day for The New Saints Ladies who were held 1-1 at lowly Birmingham and West Midlands Ladies in the FA Women's Premier League Midlands division one.

"We are making things very difficult for ourselves and it is so frustrating," said manager Andy Williams. "We work incredibly hard during the week and then struggle to perform on game day."

"We knew that it would be a physical battle, but we just didn't get to the levels required. That is one win in four league games now since January. That is not the points return we hoped for and is simply not what we expect. The players need to raise their consistency levels."

TNS made a positive start in the opening exchanges but almost went behind to an own goal following a defensive mix-up.

Emily Ridge was a constant threat with her pace, but was thwarted by a couple of good saves, while captain Charlotte Canlett went close with three goal-bound efforts.

However, the visitors fell behind against the run of play with a sweet 25-yard strike before gaining a deserved leveller on 75 minutes when a cross from Hannah Yates was finished off by Laura Morris.

Meanwhile, TNS under-19s moved a step closer to the Welsh Premier development league (north) title with a comfortable 6-1 victory away to Prestatyn Town.

Welshpool leave it late to net point

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

A LAST-gasp leveller from Adam Davies salvaged a thrilling 2-2 draw for high flying Welshpool Town at one of their chief rivals Llanidloes Town in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

The league leaders had twice trailed to goals from Llanidloes' new signing Peter Rees and Ryan Biggs, but hit back on both occasions to ensure they remain top of the table - with their second equaliser coming six minutes into injury time.

Debutant Rees, signed from Carno in midweek, gave the home side the lead four minutes before half time when finishing off a cross by Ryan Biggs.

But Pool launched a swift riposte to level just before the break with Davies' first of the afternoon from 20 yards after being found in space by Ian Robert.

Llanidloes regained lead on the hour when Biggs drove a terrific 25-yard volley into the bottom corner, and were denied a third when keeper Dave Littleford pulled off a superb save.

The hosts, however, still looked to have done enough to earn the spoils, but Pool showed their never-say-die attitude to snatch a point six minutes into injury time.

Former Llanidloes wing back Steve Jones launched a bursting run and, despite being denied by a goal-line clearance, player-of-the-month Davies pulled one back with eight minutes left, but United held firm for a hard-fought victory.

The last gasp draw sees Pool move two points clear of second placed Llanidloes who missed a chance of going top as they succumbed 3-2 at Aberaeron. However, Llanidloes remain firm title favourites with five games in hand on the pacesetters.

The visitors could have no complaints following their reverse at a spirited Aberaeron who ran out deserving winners.

They led 2-0 at the break before Llanidloes pulled one back five minutes into the second period through Kyham Wyton's deflected cross shot.

The hosts, however, restored their two goal cushion five minutes from time before Llanidloes' player boss Marc Griffiths got a second in the dying moments when running through to score.

But it was too little too late, with Aberaeron getting to take the spoils through a brace from Matthew Davies, with Mat Clarke getting the other.

Llanidloes kept alive their hopes of a top five finish after notching their second 2-1 victory of Knighton Town in a week.

Having defeated their spirited opponents in the Central Wales Cup seven days before, they prevailed again, this time in the league.

Alun Hughes gave Llanidloes a 22nd minute lead from close range, and three minutes later a slick move ended with an own goal to double the advantage. With the home side down to 10 men, Knighton pulled one back with eight minutes left, but United held firm for a hard-fought victory.

Luke Evans bagged a brace as Carno walloped struggling Borth United 5-1 consolidating their top five spot, with Geraint Jones, Scott Williams and Andy Evans also finding the net.

Berriew's six match unbeaten run came to an

end as they slipped to a disappointing 3-2 loss at home to Tywyn Bryncrug, Josh Morgan and Rhys Stephens getting the replies for the below-par hosts.

Chirkstone boosted their cause after overcoming Llandrindod Wells 3-1 at home, but Kerr slumped 5-1 at Radnor Valley to remain third bottom.

Unbeaten leaders Builth Wells remain on course for the second division title after a 6-0 rout of Aberystwyth University.

Jonny Samuel scored a goal of the season contender for the Spmen, with Richie Powell, Harry Bastable, Jack Hammonds, A Jones, and L James the other marksmen.

Llansantffraid Village, in second spot, stayed on course for promotion after their 3-2 success at Dolgellau. The villagers are two points behind Builth, but have played two games more.

An injury time strike from Matty Tonks saw Abermule slip to a 3-2 loss at home to Hay St Mary's whose Darren Horrigan and Chris Preece were the other marksmen.

Struggling Penybont crashed 6-0 at home to Newbridge, while Montgomery were downed 3-0 against visitors Brecon Northcote.

Dyffryn Banw moved up to sixth spot the table after their 3-0 home victory against Presteigne.

Meanwhile, TNS under-19s moved a step closer to the Welsh Premier development league (north) title with a comfortable 6-1 victory away to Prestatyn Town.

Olympians' trio on duty racing for Shropshire



Ready to go - Massimo Wyatt, Jack Tinney and Charlie White Jones in their Shropshire vests

THREE members of Oswestry Olympians put their best foot forward when they represented Shropshire in the National Schools' Cross Country Championships.

Jack Tinney, Charlie White Jones and Massimo Wyatt earned their selection after each being in the top three in the county - and made the long trek to Prestwold Hall in Loughborough to compete against the country's best runners.

There they found the conditions sticky underfoot and, for the first time, experienced the jostling associated with a packed start with so many competitors.

In the Year 6 race, Jack Tinney, of Carreghofa School, was the second Shropshire runner home in a superb 43rd place out of 257 runners. Third finisher for the county in 86th place was Charlie White Jones of Woodside School.

Massimo Wyatt, of The Marches School, was the victim of a particularly congested year 7 start, but battled on through the 3.5km course to be the third Shropshire runner home, completing an excellent day for the Oswestry contingent.

Cynwyd plan competition double date

OSWESTRY League club Cynwyd have taken the wraps off two open competitions they'll host this year, writes MALCOLM FLETCHER.

An open doubles will be run on Sunday, June 10 (10.30am start) with entries costing £10 and a first prize of £120, bookings to Phil Jones (01490 412584; email philcynwyd@gmail.com by June 4).

He will also be organising the Cynwyd Open Singles on Sunday, August 12, at the club near Corwen, which is the furthest west of any affiliated to the Shropshire association.

Over in Telford, it's still not too late to enter the Barbara Price Ladies Doubles at Hadley USC, to be played all on Sunday. Contact is Chris Sherry (01952 412354 or 07905 581533), entry costs £8 and qualifiers start at 10am and 1pm, with the final from 5pm.

Bowls diary

Candlin Memorial Doubles at Sinclair - with improved £500 prize money with full house of 32 pairs. All on Sunday, April 8, with £200 first prize. Entry £12 per pair, qualifying sessions at 10 and 11am, plus 3pm with last eight from 6pm. Book with Stuart Church on 07877 857721 or email kevin-harris@virginmedia.com

£300 Llanfair Single Singles - Late vacancies for comp with final day for last 16 on Sunday, April 15 (11am start after practice) with £30 for winner. Contact Kieran Jones (07887 373869).

Lis Hughes Memorial Ladies Triples at Sir John Bayley - £30 first prize with full house of 32 teams. Qualifiers on Saturday-Sunday, September 1-2 (9.30am and 1pm sessions). Last eight for finals day on Sunday, September 23. Entry £15, full details from Margi Gray on 07580 044659.

£1,000 Llanfair Mixed Doubles - men and women with 64 places at £15 on Sunday, September 9. Full house will guarantee £400 first prize. Bookings to Tom Roden (07961-179946).

Three and easy as Guils cruise to win

GUILSFIELD stayed in sight of finishing runners-up in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance with a 3-1 victory at relegation-haunted Queens Park.

Two goals in as many minutes in the first half from Callum Bromley and the returning Asa Hamilton saw the Guils take control of the game.

Park reduced the deficit three minutes before the break through Tomas Bunchall following some slack play from a set-piece, but a goal five minutes into the second half from Adam Jenkins restored the two goal advantage.

Despite being wasteful in front of goal, the victory

sees the villagers consolidate fourth spot, and - with just three league games left - they are two points off second position.

Boss Nathan Leonard admitted his side made hard work of overcoming their Wrexham hosts who are facing relegation this term.

Chances

"We were cruising at 2-0, and then conceded a poor goal from a set piece," he said.

"We had enough chances to have scored six or seven but, as in a lot of games this season, we strug-

gled to kill them off."

"We need to be more ruthless against the better sides as we won't get so many opportunities."

Tough times continue for Caersws who remain in the lower reaches after their 2-0 home loss to Denbigh Town.

The Bluebirds were slow to get into their stride in heavy conditions, and trailed at the break to a goal from Matthew Worrall after losing possession.

Despite improvements and chances in the second period, the hosts conceded a second goal from Andrew Swarbrick to seal their fate,

Churchstoke shooters have title in their sights

HIGH-FLYING Churchstoke have the Montgomeryshire Airgun League title firmly in their sights after maintaining their unbeaten run.

With just four matches remaining, leaders 'Stoke are four points clear at the top after their latest win put paid to third-placed Arddleem's hopes of taking the title.

The tension-filled match featured a mechanical breakdown, fevered mathematical calculations and the narrowest of winning margins as it went down to the last shot of the match.

But it was the leaders who remain unbeaten in 14 matches with a 204-203.9 win after a tremendous match saw Arddleem's Martin Pearce score the only possible, a 35.2.

Newtown won their mid-table battle against Castle Caereinion 198.4-196.2, with Jess Corbett leading her team from the front with an excellent 35.3.

In the battle of Crew Green, it was the B team who emerged victorious 197.4-193.9, bringing them into fifth place behind the A team.

The A's opening shooter Ed Kelton fired another possible to add to his impressive total this season (35.3), as did the B's ever-reliable Joe Hilditch.

Hard-hitting Guilsfield A offered no quarter to six-shooter Forden, winning 200.4-183.4 to remain second in the table and the only side that looks likely to stop Churchstoke's title charge.

A six-shooter Llanfair Caereinion were undone by Guilsfield B, despite Dai Tom Williams claiming yet another high-scoring possible (35.5).

Five shooters claimed possibles - Arddleem's Martin Pearce (35.2), Edward Kelton of GCA, Jess Corbett of Newtown, CGB's Joe Hilditch (35.3) and Dai Tom Williams of Llanfair Caereinion (35.5).

Shooter of the week - As the only captain to score a possible this week, Jess Corbett of Newtown takes the honours.

Match of the week - Due to the narrowest possible margin of victory, scintillating atmosphere and the exceptional level of sportsmanship on display at the match, the encounter between Arddleem and Churchstoke is the clear winner.

Saints face crucial run of fixtures

ST MARTINS face a crucial three-match spell that could define their season in the West Midlands League division one.

Having suffered their first defeat in 10 outings with a 2-1 loss at home to promotion rivals Darlaston Town last time out, the promotion chasing Saints returned to duty at Team Dudley in midweek.

They then embark on two rearranged games on the road this weekend, with a vital clash at second placed Newport Town on Saturday, followed by a trip to Worcester Raiders on the Monday.

The Darlaston reverse was the first loss since November for Dan Stevens' side, and saw them slip one place to fifth - just one position above Team Dudley who kicked off the big week for the Saints when they visited Park Hall on Tuesday night.

"The warning signs have been there for the last few weeks, and we now need to bounce back and go on another good run," said manager Dan Stevens.

"It was disappointing to lose against our promotion rivals, and it was all the more disappointing with second placed Newport losing."

"We're not away to Newport and Worcester Raiders over the Easter weekend which will shape our season."

Eagles suffer late penalty heartbreak

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY suffered heartbreak in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two after a last-ditch penalty try gave mid-table rivals Port Sunlight a dramatic 22-20 victory.

Playing their first league game in a month, the Eagles looked to have a hard-fought win in their grasp on the Wirral before the home side were awarded a penalty score two minutes into injury time.

On a sunny afternoon, it was a tough finish for the visitors who were up for the battle against the large Port Sunlight forwards.

After more than 20 minutes of stalemate, the home side got the first points on the board with a well-taken penalty from just inside the Oswestry half.

Port Sunlight were back on the attack from the restart, but were met by some solid and aggressive tackling as they ventured towards the visitors 22.

The Eagles then won some turnover ball, feeding Nikola Nickolov who sped upfield from almost the entire length of the pitch to score a terrific try close to Port Sunlight's posts. Fin Grogan stepped up and converted for a 7-3 lead.

However, without a league fixture since late February, Oswestry looked rusty at times due to lack of match time, and handling errors led to them conceding a number of penalties.

However, the Eagles dug deep, and forced their way upfield towards the home 22 and added a second try against the run of the game as Grogan slipped a pass to Liam Williams who crossed in at the corner. The conversion was narrowly missed, but Oswestry went into half time with a useful 12-3 lead.

Despite mistakes, they would have been delighted to be in front at the turnaround, and their prospects of an away win got even better after the interval when captain and man-of-the-match Andrew Smith launched a strong run before he was tackled.

The ball then found its way out to Fabrizio Gaito who managed to score his first try for Oswestry to extend the advantage to 17-3 with the conversion missed.

The visitors may have been in sight of a bonus point, but Port Sunlight kept battling and pushing their opponents as they did in the first half. After 12 minutes of the second half, the home team - with the help of needless penalties conceded by their opponents - managed to run in



Jump to it - Oswestry's Fletcher Owen Youens secures line-out ball at Port Sunlight. ■ Pic: John Gibbs.

their first try which was converted to reduce the arrears to 17-10.

With the Eagles forced into changes, Port Sunlight took strength from their opening touchdown and the backing of the home support as they again attacked the visitors line.

The relentless pressure from Sunlight's strong pack saw another penalty conceded, with Fletcher Owen-Youens given a yellow card.

With the advantage of an extra player, the Wirral men ran in their second try to reduce the arrears to two points with the conversion missed.

Despite up against it, Oswestry got back upfield and were awarded a penalty 35 yards out which was kicked by Grogan to extend the lead to 20-15.

With Owen-Youens back on the pitch, the Eagles were defending their lines with some solid defence and looked to be in sight of victory.

Jack's the lad as COBRA in try spree

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

JACK Jukes grabbed a super hat-trick of tries as COBRA racked up one of their biggest wins of the season in the Welsh League division two (north) with a 54-13 bonus point success away to struggling Abergel.

Looking to consolidate fourth place in the division, the Meifod side returned to winning ways with an ultimately comfortable victory away to their rock bottom hosts.

It was the second time this term that they have passed the 50-point mark.

The visitors had led by just four points at the break, but stormed clear in the second period to run in a total of eight tries, with No8 Jukes crossing three times.

Victory sees COBRA remain in fourth spot, nine points adrift of second placed Shotton Steel, with six games remaining.

They face a far tougher assignment of Saturday away to unbeaten leaders Denbigh, before hosting the same side the following week.

The Llanfair men started well against struggling

Worthington adding the extras.

Although the home side kicked their second penalty of the game, COBRA secured a bonus point when centre Ieuian Williams broke down the flank to cross for a well taken try to extend the lead to 26-13.

Jukes they touched down for his second score, converted by Worthington, and wing Iolo White was the next to go over, Worthington again converting for a 40-13 advantage.

Jukes completed his hat-trick of tries and centre Aled Humphreys rounded off the try scoring, both converted by Worthington to complete the comfortable victory.

■ WELSHPOOL were back in action, but suffered a 43-19 loss away to promotion chasing Shotton Steel to remain third from bottom.

The Maesydre men have no league game on Saturday, before returning to duty the following week with a crunch encounter at home to basement side Abergel.

Sport

OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

Clarke hits a super ton in Barbados

JOE Clarke strengthened his claims for a full England call-up after being named player of the series in helping the North defeat their southern counterparts.

The Worcestershire batsmen, who hopes to make appearances for home town club Oswestry this season, struck 112 from 98 balls to steer the North to a 96-run victory in the decisive third match against the South in Barbados.

Opening the batting, he took his tally to 229 runs from the three matches at an average of 76.33, hammering 10 fours and five sixes before being run out.

His century steered the North to a total of 296-8 in 50 overs on a slow, low Kensington Oval wicket, before the South struggled to 200 all out in reply. After featuring for the England Lions earlier in the winter, the 21-year-old ended his tour of the Caribbean on a high note, having struck 46 and 71 (off just 58 balls) in the previous two matches against the South.

His latest innings, in particular, would have impressed watching selectors as he presses his claims for an England spot.

"It was nice to make a proper contribution to a series win," he said.

"I've done a few Lions tours now and hopefully my performances here have knocked on the door a bit."

"Hopefully I will have a good season for Worcestershire, be very consistent, and see where it goes."

Meanwhile, Oswestry will be doing their utmost to remain in the Birmingham and Cricket League division one next season after plans to restructure the league have been confirmed.

It's imperative they stay in the first division to guarantee their place in the new-look league from the start of the 2019 season which will comprise two divisions (Premier One and Premier Two) with 12 clubs in each.

The other 24 clubs will transfer to their respective county leagues as will all second teams.

Oswestry's season gets under way at home to Shropshire rivals Bridgnorth on Saturday, April 21.

Crosses hoping for Good Friday in cup

FOUR Crosses will have a score to settle when they take on Newcastle Emlyn in the final of the Emrys Morgan Cup at Rhayader's Weirgloch on Good Friday.

Having lost 3-1 after extra time when the sides met in the Central Wales Cup earlier in the season, the Foxen Manor side will hope to turn the tables this time.

The can go into the encounter in good heart after storming into the final by sweeping aside Forden United 4-0 at Newtown's Latham Park.

After their first attempt was abandoned just before half time due to snow, the sides tried again a week later - and Four Crosses emerged convincing winners with Harry Davies scoring twice, along with Jack Jones and Shin Miah.

Swimming
Elain strikes gold in Cardiff – P38

Rugby
Eagles suffer a late blow – P39



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Guilsfield boss eyes runners-up spot

GUILSFIELD remain in with a chance of finishing runners-up in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance as they enter the home straight of the season.

The fourth placed villagers got back on track with a 3-1 victory at relegation haunted Queens Park - a win that keeps them just two points off second spot with three games remaining.

"If we can finish second, it would be one hell of an achievement," said manager Nathan Leonard. "We've got three tough games left, and we need to be more ruthless."

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

"We dominated against Queens Park, and had enough chances to have won the game by five or six. But we're struggling to kill teams off, which has been our problem."

The Guils know they will need to take their chances when they embark on Saturday's testing trip to Gresford Athletic (2.30).

They defeated their opponents 2-1 last month

at Park Hall in a game that saw the Latics have four players as well as their manager sent off.

It's a busy weekend for villagers who host Holme Hotspur in a delayed first round tie in the Huws Gray Cup on Easter Monday.

The game as already been postponed three times, with the winners visiting Porthmadog in the quarter-finals.

Defenders Sam Litchfield and Robbie James, who both missed last weekend, come back into contention.

Pool looking to open gap at table top

LEADERS Welshpool Town can open up a five point lead at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they host Radnor Valley at Maesydye on Friday night (7.30).

Buoyed by their last-gasp 2-2 draw at one of their chief rivals Llanidloes Town last weekend, Pool will be out to stay top of the pile going into Easter.

Title favourites Llanrhaeadr, in second place, aim to get back on track when they visit struggling Borth United on Saturday following their 3-2 defeat away to Aberaeron.

Third placed Llanidloes look to complete a swift double when they head to Kerry, while Berriew, who saw their six-match unbeaten run halted last weekend, visit rock bottom Machynlleth.

There's a big game at the Mount Field as Llanfair United welcome Carno as they look to press their claims for a top six finish.

Llansantffraid Village, lying second in the second division, bid to maintain their promotion push with a visit to improving Dyffryn Banw.

There are four games on Easter Monday, which includes Llanfair's visit to Berriew and Llanrhaeadr's crunch clash away to Carno.

FC Oswestry Town hope to rediscover the winning formula when they host Abbey Hulton United at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm).

Town slipped to 15th in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one following their midweek 2-1 loss at home to Alsager Town.

Having not won in their last six, there are still 11 league games for the Oswestry side who lie one place below this weekend's visitors from Staffordshire on goal difference.

Tigers roar to the table tennis title

Dominant Morda Tigers are the Oswestry Table Tennis League division one champions for a third consecutive season after a comprehensive win over Myddle.

The unbeaten Tigers dropped just one set win on their way to a 10-0 whitewash that seen them lift the title with two matches remaining.

After Jason Hughes steered the Tigers to more title success, it now leaves Jeremy Chavez and Huw Jones to battle it out for the individual merit in their remaining two games.

Runners-up spot is still to be decided and will be left to Morda A, Criftins A and Myddle to fight it out.

Morda A are looking good for second spot after their hard fought 8-2 success against Criftins B in which there were three wins each for Brian Suckley and Allen Roberts.

For Criftins, Olly Harris and Jack Hughes had victories over Andy Hardy - both in four sets.

SEVEN UP



Trophy time – The New Saints get the party started, celebrating their seventh successive Welsh Premier title on Sunday. Picture: Brian Jones.

THE Welsh Premier title may be done and dusted, but The New Saints still have some unfinished business when they head to Bangor City on Saturday evening (5.15).

The newly crowned champions will need no reminding that their league campaign got off to a shaky start with a 5-2 drubbing at the hands of the Citizens back on August 11.

Since that night, normal service was quickly resumed, and the Saints now return to Nantporth some 28 games later having wrapped up a seventh consecutive crown and 12th in all.

With four matches left, and with a commanding 16-point lead at the top, boss Scott Ruscoe will want to maintain the impetus right to the end of the season.

Lying joint second, Bangor will have other ideas, and are sure to provide a tough hurdle as

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

they chase automatic qualification for the Europa League this summer.

"That opening night defeat against Bangor seems a long time ago," said Ruscoe. "We've had a few defeats along the way but that one stands out. It was a tough start, but we've been very good since."

"We are 16 points clear, and with four games left, we want to keep a distance between us and second place.

"What we don't want is Bangor closing that gap and gaining some momentum to take into next season and start thinking they can take the title off us."

Ruscoe is now looking ahead to the Champions League in July, adding: "We could be losing a couple of players along the way, but we will look to recruit well and keep moving forward."

The Saints produced their Sunday best in

sweeping aside Cefn Druids 5-1 in front of the

S4C cameras before being presented with a 12th league crown.

Although the title was settled two days before following Bala Town's defeat to Connah's Quay, the league leaders revelled in the Park Hall sunshine with Greg Draper scoring four times to pass 100 goals for the club.

It was also a special day for Ruscoe and his assistant Steve Evans who bagged their first league title in their new management roles after taking over from Craig Harrison last summer.

"It's a proud moment to win the league as a manager. It's a good feeling, and it was pleasing to lift the trophy after putting in a performance like that," added Ruscoe.

"We knew we had won the league before the game, but it was not a case of just turning up."

"The lads were at it right from the first whistle."

Defenders Steve Saunders, and Ryan Pryce - who both picked up injuries on Sunday - face fitness checks along with Simon Spender who missed the game.

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